

ÉDITION DE LUXE.

No. 945

JANUARY 7, 1888

THE GRAPHIC.

AN
ILLUSTRATED
WEEKLY
NEWSPAPER.



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AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

No. 945.—VOL. XXXVII.
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ÉDITION
DE LUXE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1888

TWO EXTRA
SUPPLEMENTS [PRICE NINEPENCE
By Post Ninepence Halfpenny



COUNT LUDOVICO PECCI
Father of Pope Leo XIII.

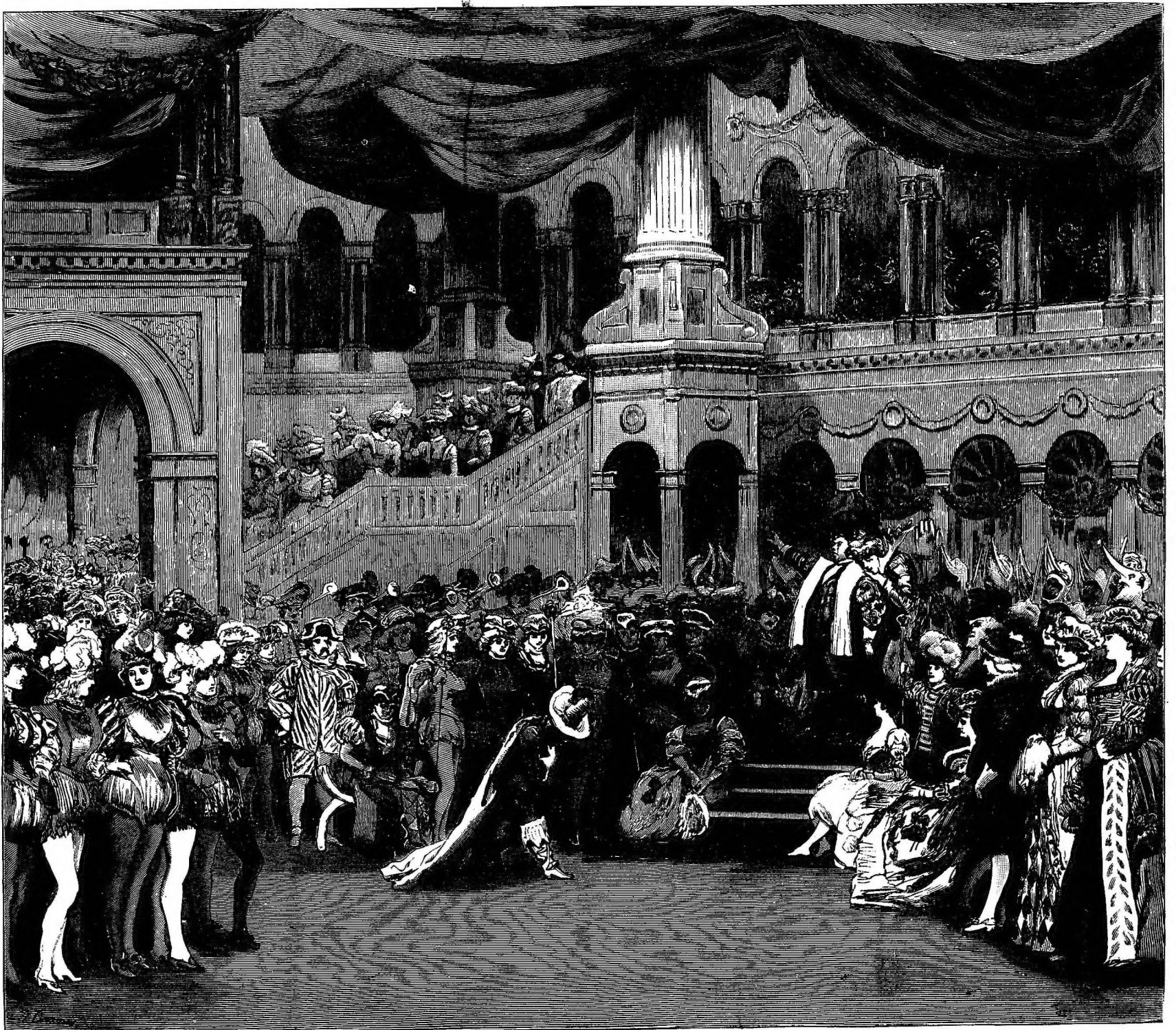


ROOM IN WHICH LEO XIII. WAS BORN, CARPINETO



COUNTESS PECCI
Mother of Pope Leo XIII.

CELEBRATION OF THE POPE'S SACERDOTAL JUBILEE AT ROME



SCENE FROM THE PANTOMIME OF "PUSS IN BOOTS" AT DRURY LANE THEATRE
CELEBRATION OF THE WEDDING OF THE KING AND QUEEN—ARRIVAL OF THE CAT

Topics of the Week

THE FORGED LETTERS.—For a while the world became rather sceptical about the very existence of the forged letters of which so much was said several weeks ago. At last, however, they have been published; and it is certainly not surprising that the Czar, so long as he believed in their authenticity, was keenly irritated by them. Had they been genuine, they would have proved Prince Bismarck to be one of the most treacherous statesmen of modern times. In his public policy he seemed anxious to avoid giving occasion of offence to Russia. He persistently declared that he desired to act in strict accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, and he carefully refrained from encouraging Prince Ferdinand. According to these despatches, he was secretly working all the time against the Russian Government, and preparing the way, as fast as he could, for the destruction of the Treaty for which he openly professed so much respect. The letters are remarkably clever forgeries; and coming, as they evidently did, from some high source, they were not unnaturally accepted by the Czar as authentic. The name of the author is not yet publicly known. Indeed, it is asserted that even the Russian Government does not know by whom they were written. This, if true, is perhaps the most remarkable part of a very extraordinary story; but it is barely credible, and no one quite believes it. The writer of documents which very nearly brought upon Europe the horrors of a great war ought not to be deprived of the fame he so well deserves. The authorship of the "Letters of Junius" is a small matter compared with the authorship of these mysterious papers. The person who wrote them has the distinction of having cherished as wicked a purpose as any that ever entered the mind of a human being. What he designed was to gain his private ends by creating complications which might have led to the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent men, and to the ruin of more than one great State.

THE "TIMES" CENTENARY.—The *Times* newspaper seems such an obvious feature in our social arrangements, it has appeared for so long a period with such unflinching regularity, that it is difficult to realise how very recently (for a hundred years is but a brief space in the life of a nation) the world-renowned journal had no existence. For various reasons, therefore, it was advantageous that on New Year's Day the *Times* should celebrate its centenary, and this it did, according to its wont, in a modest manly way. It is instructive to contrast the half-humorous, half-apologetic tone of the five-year-old journal when it announced its change of name from *Universal Register* to *Times*, with the confident, yet carefully-measured language of the same newspaper in its maturity. We need not here dwell on the gradual expansion and improvement of the *Times*. Its progress reflects the similar expansion and improvement of the Empire generally. The account given on Monday of the contents of the early copies of the *Times*, and of the difficulties with which it had to contend, was so interesting that its present conductors might supplement this hereafter by devoting one or more articles to the gradual changes wrought in the *Times*, both as regards size and the arrangement of the news and advertisements. To an elderly man it seems only the other day when the *Times* consisted of only two sheets (each containing four pages) the outer sheet being mainly advertisements. In dining-rooms and coffee-houses, therefore, the man who had got possession of the middle sheet was regarded with eyes of envy. We should like to know when the little ships and coaches ceased to head the announcements of those conveyances; when (this is quite a recent change) the names in the "Births, Deaths, and Marriages" were first given in capitals; and, in short, numerous other items of information of this sort.

THE WATERLOO MEMORIAL.—Not a few English folks will experience an unpleasant feeling on seeing that it has been found necessary to again "send round the hat" for a memorial to certain gallant souls who fell at Waterloo. It is the old, old story; they were buried, and forgotten by the country for whom they risked and lost their lives. Precisely the same thing has happened again and again; John Bull has so much to do that, like the Laputan sages, he needs to have his memory jogged from time to time. Why not found a permanent committee or association to look after the distant graves of our soldiers and sailors? What is every one's business is no one's business; it was not the concern of any one in particular to see that the remains of the officers interred at the old cemetery, Brussels, and round about Mont St. Jean, had a suitable monument erected over them after their removal to the new cemetery. So they would have been thrust away into some unconsidered corner, but for the vigilance of a few Englishmen on the spot. Luckily, the discovery was made in time to save us from that national disgrace. All that is now required is the sum of £1,000, a trifle which, no doubt, will be forthcoming in the course of a few days. But the matter should not be allowed to rest here; there should be some department of State specially charged with the duty of preventing the possibility of such scandals as the one spoken of in the Committee's report.

"The German military monuments on the field of Waterloo are admirably kept," it states, "but England has hitherto done nothing to perpetuate the memory of her soldiers who fell in the battles of 1815." We laugh at the Chinese for worshipping their ancestors; perhaps we should be none the worse for copying this filial piety to a limited extent.

AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA.—A good many English Liberals are extremely angry with Austria for the excitement she is manifesting in the present crisis of European affairs. They talk as if she alone were responsible for the troubles which are now menacing the peace of the world. It seems to be forgotten that the questions in dispute are questions of life and death to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. In every Slavonic province of the Austrian Empire a propaganda is carried on in the interest of Russia; and if the Czar became master of Bulgaria, the Hapsburg Dynasty would be in imminent peril. Even in ordinary times Austria is compelled by the necessities of her situation to watch closely the movements of Russian policy, and it would be madness on her part if, at a time when Russia is profoundly agitated, she were not more than ever on her guard. That Russia would willingly go to war, if she were sure that Austria would be her only enemy, there can be little doubt; but in the actual circumstances of Europe we may hope that her impulses will for the present be restrained. Germany has a sincere desire for peace, and Prince Bismarck has often declared that his country has no direct interest in the Eastern Question. The Czar and his advisers know well, however, that Germany could not afford to let the Austrian Empire be destroyed. Then there is Italy in the background, and the action of England cannot be definitely foreseen. Confronted by such conditions as these, Russia may well pause before adopting an adventurous policy, and those who have the best right to an opinion on the subject seem to have arrived at the conclusion that she has decided to postpone the fulfilment of her plans to a more convenient season.

PERMANENT DEACONS.—Nominally, there are three Orders of ministers in the Church of England, namely, bishops, priests, and deacons; but, practically, the diaconate is merely a stepping-stone to the priesthood, and, as far as the general public is concerned, the deacon is simply a clergyman who is disallowed from reciting the Absolution. It has now been resolved by Convocation to reconstitute the diaconate, on traditional apostolic principles, as a genuine and distinct working order of ministers. This will be of essential benefit to the Church, which is almost everywhere greatly undermanned, especially in crowded centres of population. As long as the present system is maintained, this undermanning is likely to become still more conspicuous, because, owing to the decline in the value of Church property, and from other causes, holy Orders have lost much of their attraction as a means of livelihood. To put the matter plainly, parents are growing more and more unwilling to embark their sons in a profession which necessitates an expensive training, and frequently produces such an inadequate pecuniary result. Already the dearth of curates is becoming a serious difficulty for incumbents. At the same time there are numbers of laymen possessed of zeal and sufficient leisure, who would willingly serve the Church to the utmost of their capacity, without expectation of pecuniary recompense, if they could be guaranteed a distinct official status, such as would be conferred by their admission to a permanent diaconate.

THE REVENUE RETURNS.—After making all due deductions for this and that, it cannot be contended that the yield of taxation during the third quarter of the fiscal year equalled expectations. The second quarter showed such promise that it really seemed as if the long-expected, long-delayed recovery in trade had set in at last. This comforting belief is once more shattered; comparing the last two quarters, they point very clearly to a considerable shrinkage of trade in the second. This tallies, too, with the evidence afforded by the returns of pauperism, and by the widening area of industrial distress. Nor has there been any climatic or political cause to check commerce. Our manufactures have had many things in their favour—cheap money, cheap labour, cheap raw materials, and open weather. Yet they cannot be doing well, or the effect would be surely seen in an increased consumption of tax-paying luxuries. Since this is not the case, but rather the reverse, the inevitable conclusion presents itself that the spending power of the nation tends to diminish. It may be that the present quarter will witness another start in the upward direction: judging from the railway traffic receipts during the Christmas week, many of the working classes would seem to be in tolerably good circumstances. But, until the 31st of March arrives, economy should rule in the household and caution on 'Change. We began to holloa, it is clear, before we were out of the wood, and we have now to pay the penalty for that premature jubilation by having to make the best of hopes deferred and sick hearts.

THE POPE'S JUBILEE.—It is a curious sign of the times that many Protestants were almost as much interested as Roman Catholics in the celebration of the Pope's Jubilee. Among the gifts sent to him was a splendid one from Queen Victoria, and at the great ceremony in St. Peter's he wore

the triple crown presented by the Emperor William. These presents may be regarded as symbols of the fact that the old feeling which led Protestants to think of the Pope as Antichrist has wholly, or almost wholly, died out. Protestants who have no sympathy whatever with the distinctive doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church have learned that as the head of a vast religious organisation, and as the representative of great spiritual forces, the Pope is worthy of all respect. To the present occupant of the Holy See they are ready to do honour, not only for the sake of his office, but because as a man he has displayed high and noble moral qualities. In every important crisis he has acted with singular moderation and wisdom, and it is well known that in all Christendom there is no one who has a warmer sympathy with the poor, the miserable, and the oppressed. It would have been strange, therefore, if on so interesting an occasion as his Jubilee sensible Protestants had not been willing to add their congratulations and good wishes to those of devout Roman Catholics. The only jarring note was struck by the Italian Government, which removed Duke Torlonia, the Mayor of Rome, from office, because he offered to His Holiness, through the Cardinal-Vicar, the greetings of the city. No doubt the Italian Government, in its relations to the Papacy, has an extremely difficult part to play; but in this affair it seems to have acted with unnecessary harshness in the maintenance of its strictly legal rights.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.—The quantity of prospectuses which, after a hasty glance, and often after no glance at all, most of us throw nearly every day into the waste-paper basket, will teach the most unobservant that a vast number of these enterprises are started every year, but few are probably prepared for the formidable appearance which the total makes when printed in small type, and occupying two columns of the *Times* City article. Judging from the prospectuses, every one of these concerns supplies a "felt want," and is bound to attain success. But do they attain it, except in a minority of cases? How many of these companies will be "going concerns" five or ten years hence? The best way to answer this question is to get a list of the companies which were started ten years or five years ago, and then ascertain (it is well worth the while of an intending investor to take some trouble in acquiring this information) how many of them have realised the anticipations set forth in the prospectus. We are addressing these words of caution to *bona fide* investors, not to mere gamblers, who simply take shares with the object of clearing out as soon as a rise in price insures them a profit, and who care not a button about the ultimate success or failure of the enterprise. It is lamentable to think how much hardly-earned money is annually wasted in various plausible but unsound schemes. The Limited Liability Act wants overhauling. All companies should be compelled before beginning operations to deposit with Government a substantial percentage of their proposed capital in the form of caution-money, the said caution-money not being returnable until the affairs of the company have been certified by a Government auditor to be in a sound working condition. Such a measure would hamper no legitimate enterprise, but it would undoubtedly injure the business of those who adopt the late Duc de Morny's saying: *Les affaires? l'argent des autres.*

THE CRY FROM DEPTFORD AND GREENWICH.—Whatever may be the case in other parts of the metropolis, there seems little question about the existence of exceptional distress at Deptford and Greenwich. Major Cox shows that several local firms have been discharging their hands by the hundred, and that fact alone will suffice to convince any one who knows the locality, that there must be a serious amount of industrial suffering. The issue between Major Cox and the local notables who deny that any occasion exists for extraordinary relief measures is, apparently, more one of degree than of fact. Both parties to the controversy admit the existence of great distress, but the three incumbents hold with the vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians that they can cope with it without calling in public assistance. Major Cox merely disputes their ability to do so in a suitable manner; that is, by providing the more respectable unemployed with work not tainted by parish relief. He believes that there are numbers who are able and willing to labour hard for a living, but who hold the workhouse in abhorrence. Here we have the weak point in our Poor Law system thrusting itself forward, as it always does during times of distress. It was never intended nor expected by the founders of the system that the receipt of Union relief should carry with it a social stigma. All they sought was that no man, woman, or child in these isles should ever again die of starvation. Unfortunately, there is no disputing that admission to the workhouse does lower a workman's social status, and it speaks well for the growing self-respect of the class that so many should prefer the severest privations to the disgrace of entering the pauper ranks.

THE DUC D'AUMALE.—The Duc d'Aumale has never concealed that he was made very unhappy by the decree which compelled him to quit his native land. He has a sincere love for France, and proved the strength of his feeling by his recent splendid gift to the French Academy. His friends have lately been urging that he should be allowed to return, and the necessary permission would no doubt be

granted if he would formally disclaim any connection with the movement for the overthrow of Republican institutions. The Duke is too sensible to suppose that under existing conditions Monarchy can be restored; and, so far as his personal inclinations are concerned, he would probably be willing to give any pledge that might be required of him. But he could not honourably dissociate himself from the Comte de Paris, so that for the present he will have to be content with such duties and pleasures as may come in his way in exile. For the sake of the Republic itself, however, it may be hoped that not only he, but all French Princes, will by and by be allowed to settle at home if they please. No good has come of the illiberal measure by which they were driven across the frontier. Had the Comte de Paris remained in France, it would have been necessary for him to act warily. He would have known that he was watched, and that caution alone could give him a chance of ultimate success. Abroad, he has stepped forth boldly as a Pretender; and his grievances have given him a fresh claim upon the loyalty and sympathy of the Monarchical party. Let him and his kinsmen have free access to Paris, and the probability is that, under a just system of administration, their influence would not in the end be more dangerous than that of any other old and wealthy family.

VOLAPÜK.—If Mr. Dornbusch is correct in his assertion that there are already half-a-million persons corresponding in and learning Volapük, then it must be admitted that this, "the universal language of the future," has already passed beyond the point when it can be killed by small witticisms. It must be remembered, too, that English-speaking nations, owing to the favourable position which their language holds as "a universal provider" of intercourse, are apt to approach this question with a natural amount of prejudice. "Why bother about Volapük," they say, "when you have the famous tongue of Shakespeare and Milton already at your service—copious, flexible, singularly free from inflections, liberal in admitting into its ranks any useful foreign word or phrase, and already spoken by about a hundred millions of the most enterprising people on the surface of the globe?" To the English-speaker these arguments seem self-sufficient, but the inhabitants of such regions as Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Holland, and Belgium, whose mother-tongue is kept almost entirely for home-consumption, may reasonably feel desirous for the invention of a language which would save them the trouble of acquiring at least four languages, such as French, German, Italian, and English. Whether Volapük fulfils the conditions required for complete success, we are unable to say, but it certainly seems constructed on a systematic and philosophical basis, and it possesses the modern attraction of brevity. Nobody supposes that Volapük will supersede other languages, but, especially for commercial intercourse, it may become a very convenient adjunct.

THE MEDWAY STEAM RESERVE.—It is well that Admiral Rous is not with us. Were he to see the splendid fleet of warships which goes by the name of the Medway Steam Reserve, he might feel constrained to admit that Nelson's finest three-deckers would have made a poor show in comparison. It is not saying too much to affirm that a single vessel of the Medway force—say, the *Benbow*—could have smashed and sunk both of the fleets that fought in Trafalgar Bay. And if one could do that, as she most certainly could, what are we to say of the fighting power of twenty of these "tin kettles," with an equal number of first-class torpedo craft to form a second line? No doubt, some naval expert will shortly prove by arithmetical demonstration that France or Italy, or perhaps Monte Carlo, could present an even more formidable appearance. We fully expect to hear that the *Benbow* is of "obsolete type," that her armour could be penetrated as easily as damp gingerbread, and that her 110-ton breechloaders are popguns. Nor shall we be surprised to learn, on the same excellent authority, that the new armour-plated cruisers are as slow as Dutch galliots. They can only steam some eighteen or nineteen knots an hour, and what is that in these advanced times? Yet we presume to believe that the *Narcissus*, *Australia*, *Immortalité*, and even the *Warspite*, would make very tolerable "greyhounds of the sea" did occasion arise. On the whole, the Medway Steam Reserve would prove, apparently, a toughish customer, whoever might be its assailant. It is said to be the strongest fleet for fighting purposes ever known in our insular history. So it ought to be; it has cost the country close on six millions.



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(By Order) A. SARLE, Secretary and General Manager.

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To LITERARY CONTRIBUTORS.—In order to save trouble and disappointment the Editor begs to state that he has already on hand an ample supply of both LONG and SHORT STORIES for a considerable time to come.

NOTICE.—With this Number are issued, as TWO EXTRA SUPPLEMENTS, the FRONTISPIECE, TITLE-PAGE, and INDEX to VOL. XXXVI.

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190, STRAND, LONDON.



THE PAPAL JUBILEE
THE Pecci family, of which Leo XIII. is so distinguished a member, is a very old and patrician Italian house, and has long been prominent in Roman Catholic annals, counting amongst other ecclesiastical notabilities two "venerables," the Blessed Pietro Pecci and the Blessed Margaret Pecci. Joseph Pecci, an elder brother of the Pope, is also a member of the College of Cardinals. The Pope's father, Ludovico Domenico Pecci, was an old Napoleonic Colonel, and his mother was Anna Francisco Prosperi de Cori. The Pope was born on March 2nd, 1810, at the ancestral home at Carpineto, a little town of some five thousand inhabitants, built on the crest of a height forming part of the Lepini Chain in the States of the Church. The house itself, like many Italian ancestral homes, was somewhat dilapidated, and one of the first acts of Leo XIII. was to undertake its restoration. A leading characteristic of the Pope is his affection for his family, and his first letter announcing his election was written by him to his brothers, to whom he sent his apostolic benediction. An account of the actual celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Pope's entry into the priesthood will be found in another column; but our double-page engraving, from the picture by Count A. de Courten, representing Leo XIII. on his *sedia gestatoria*, will give an idea of the nature of the crowning ceremony in St. Peter's—the blessing *urbi et orbi*, which has not been pronounced in the great cathedral since the Pope gave it forth from the inner balcony on the day of his election. In our picture, however, the scene is not in St. Peter's but in the beautiful Sistine Chapel—the occasion being the celebration of the anniversary of the Papal coronation, and the Pope is shown giving his blessing to the assembled congregation. This is always a picturesque and imposing rite. The Pope, wholly in white, save for the gold embroidery on his mantle and the jewels on his tiara, presents a most majestic appearance as, borne aloft on the *sedia*—surrounded by his chief officers of state—he passes down the chapel. The gorgeous yellow and red uniforms of the Swiss guards, the scarlet and white robes of the cardinals, and the waving ostrich plumes overshadowing the Papal Chair, all unite to form a striking picture which, once seen, cannot be easily forgotten.

"PUSS IN BOOTS" AT DRURY LANE
THE chief defect of this pantomime is its inordinate length and overpowering magnificence. Year by year Mr. Augustus Harris endeavours to excel his former efforts, and as none but himself can be his parallel, he ends by cramming into one pantomime enough to make half-a-dozen pieces of the sort. Of the many brilliant scenes, one of the most brilliant is the Silver Wedding of the King (Mr. Herbert Campbell) and the Queen (Mr. Harry Nicholls). It is so magnificent in effect, it presents such an array of lovely colours and rich stuffs and delightful appearances, that it may be ranked as one of the highest efforts in this line of the famous Augustus Drurylanus. The scene represents the Palace of the King and Queen, a dazzling structure of white marble, and down the grand staircase there pass successively all the Court retainers in dresses whose hues exhaust the whole catalogue of colours.

CHRISTMAS SPORTS AT THE NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

THE Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind (to give the Institution its full title), is situated at Upper Norwood, and on the afternoon of December 28th, the sixteenth Christmas Tree Festival was held there. The "Tree," twenty-seven feet high, was presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and many of the gifts which it bore were created by the deft fingers of the College pupils. It is their custom to give each other keepsakes, and there are always in stock a large number of books embossed by hand. Dr. F. J. Campbell, the energetic Director of the Institution (who is himself blind), had for a long time been desirous to find some sports for the blind—something less mechanical than gymnastic exercises, in which they are already proficient—which should afford them as much delight as cricket and football give to those who can see. Excellent substitutes have at length been found. Rinks are now provided for roller-skating, tracks for cycling, water for rowing, there is a beautiful swimming-bath, and an adaptation of skittles to the blind, invented by Dr. Campbell and entitled the "Rob Roy." The enthusiasm of the pupils for these amusements is quite remarkable. We may add that the earnings of the old pupils during the past year amounted to more than 10,000/. All, except two or three, of the young persons, if they had not received a practical training, would have been dependent members of society.

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK" AT COVENT GARDEN

THIS year the two big theatres are rivals in the matter of pantomimes, and the playgoer who is hesitating which to choose had better go and see both. Drury Lane may excel Covent Garden as regards dresses and spectacular effects generally; but there is nothing in the comic department at Drury Lane so good in its way as the Fe-Fo-Fi-Fum of Mr. George Conquest, jun. This giant, although he is ten feet high, and wields a gigantic club, and possesses an enormous appetite, is by no means a bad fellow at bottom. In fact, "he is all right when you know him, but you've got to know him first." The ubiquitous Jack, of whom Miss Fannie Leslie is a most agile and versatile representative, soon discovers the giant's good qualities, as, for example, when he shakes hands, and joins in the rustic festivities, after a set-to (in which the monster has been defeated) according to the strict rules of the P.R. Nor must Mrs. Giant be forgotten, a thin and vixenish lady, divertingly impersonated by Mr. Sam Wilkinson. The old story of "Jack and the Beanstalk" is told by the authors in a sufficiently straightforward manner; though, in order to enlarge the budget of incidents requisite for a four hours' performance, they have cleverly interwoven fragments from other nursery legends.



CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE AND ACADEMY OF MUSIC FOR THE BLIND, UPPER NORWOOD
PUPILS SKATING ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE



1. Climbing the Beanstalk

2. Fight with the Giant

6. Converted

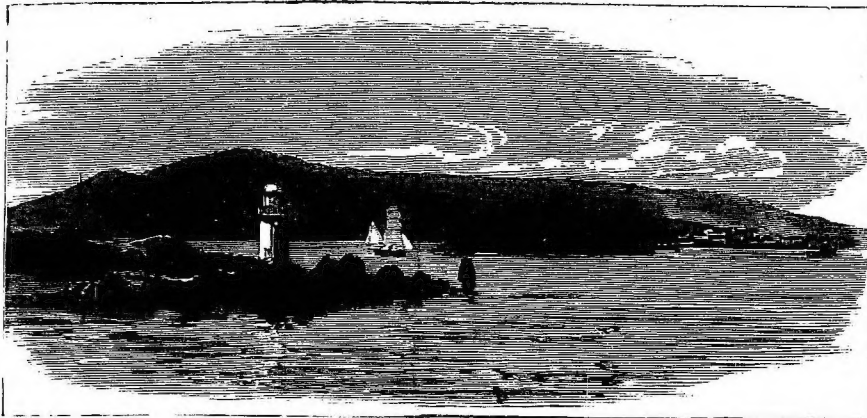
3. Mrs. Giant

7. A Sprightly Fairy

4. The Magic Sword

5. "The Giant is Coming"

SCENES FROM THE PANTOMIME OF "JACK AND THE BEANSTALK," AT COVENT GARDEN THEATRE



ENTRANCE TO HARBOUR, STORNOWAY



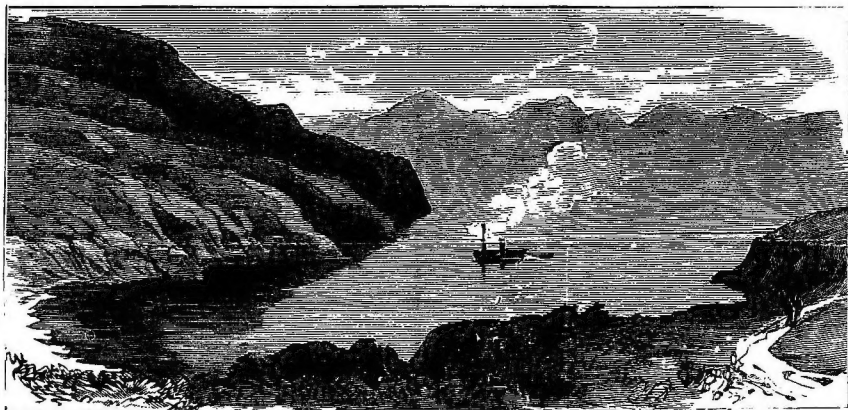
SHOOTING LODGE AT EISHKEN, LOCH SHELL



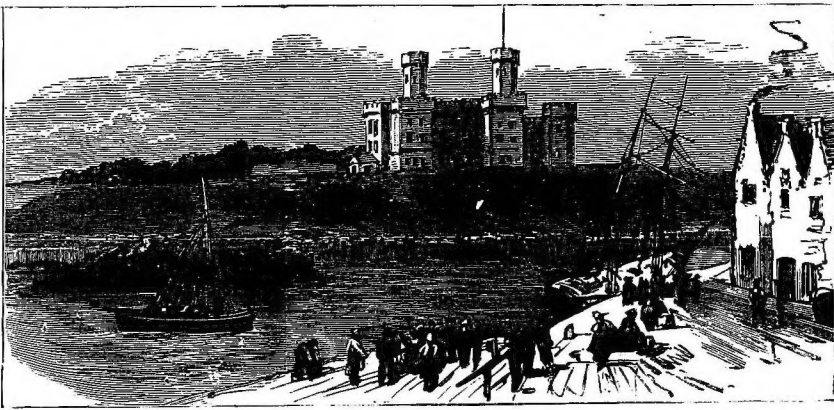
LOCH SEAFORTH HEAD, SHOWING THE HILLS DRIVEN FOR DEER



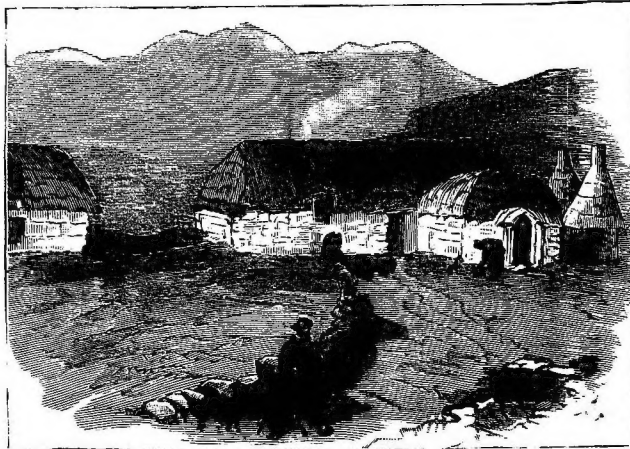
A SHIELING, THE DWELLING USED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LOOK AFTER CATTLE



GENERAL VIEW OF LOCH SHELL FROM EISHKEN LODGE



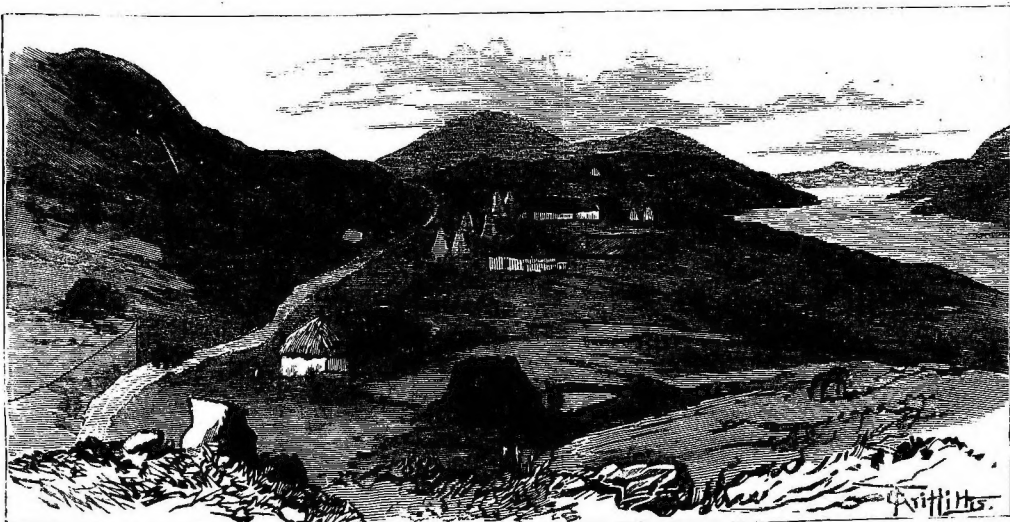
LEWIS CASTLE AND GROUNDS FROM THE PIER, STORNOWAY



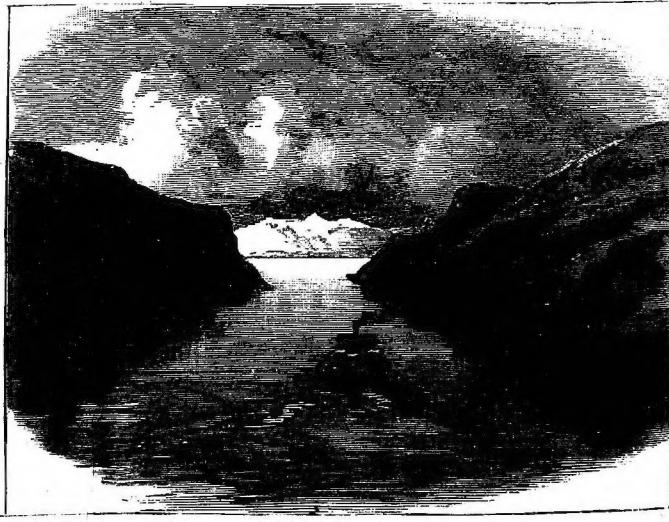
CROFTERS' HOUSES NEAR BALALLAN, LOCHS DISTRICT



GENERAL VIEW OF LAXSAY, LOCHS DISTRICT



VIEW NEAR BALALLAN, LOCHS DISTRICT



ENTRANCE TO LOCH SHELL

THE RECENT RAIDS BY CROFTERS ON DEER FORESTS IN LEWIS

RAID ON DEER FORESTS

ABOUT 2,000 cottars marched at daybreak on November 22nd, headed by pipers, from the various crofterships of Lochs Parish, Island of Lewis, for Park and Aline deer forests. Numbers of them were armed with rifles, and they took with them tents, stores, and other baggage. Their object was to pitch their camp on the mountains for several weeks, and exterminate the deer. They alleged that three-fourths of the parish was wasted under deer while 6,000 crofters were starving, portions of the land now under deer having formerly been cultivated by the crofters. The raiders having mustered at Seaforth Head, on the Park shooting ground, proceeded to beat the western part of the forest, driving and killing deer. The next day similar operations were conducted, but on a different route. Some of the men asserted that they were actuated by sheer necessity, having little or no food. After the second day's raid, the expedition appears to have come to an end, the raiders having dispersed and returned to their homes. Their dispersal may have been partly due to the fact that H.M.S. *Ajax*, with 500 men on board, was ordered to proceed to Lewis to assist in suppressing the deer raids and other disturbances in that island.—Our engravings, which afford some idea of the scenery and buildings in the disturbed locality, are from sketches by Captain V. Farquharson, Royal Scots.

THE TEA INDUSTRY IN CEYLON

OUR illustrations, from sketches taken by Mr. John L. K. Van Dort, at Blackstone Estate, Ambegamowa District, represent some of the chief processes of preparing the tea for the market. When the plants arrive at maturity they are pruned and almost denuded of leaves. From the shoots which follow only the tender leaves are plucked—the bud with the half-developed leaf, and the one next it. These are called "flush," and after manufacture are known as Orange Pekoe, Broken Pekoe, Pekoe, Pekoe Souchong and Souchong, according to the quality of the leaf. Women and children pick the leaves, which are withered in lofts, and then rolled by machinery—the rolling breaking the shells and twisting the leaves. They are now left to ferment in trays, and then fired and dried in a "sirocco," or dryer. This is the last process, the tea being finally packed, and despatched to the railway-station in bullock carts. The labourers on tea estates, with the exception of a few Sinhalese carpenters, are Tamils from Southern India. In the sketch of the roll-call the manager's dwelling-house and the factory are shown, with Adam's Peak in the distance. The monkish looking figures in cowls are labourers, with their blankets folded over their heads as a protection against the cold of the morning. The itinerant tea vendor is a Tamil, and his customers Sinhalese.

BURNING OF THE GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON

THIS house was built to replace the Philharmonic Theatre (situated on the same spot), which was virtually gutted by fire on September 6th, 1882. On the night of Wednesday, December 28th, a crowded audience assembled to witness the pantomime at the Grand Theatre, and dispersed at 11.30 P.M. An hour and a half later, the fireman on night duty observed a small fire among the "flies" above the stage, at once turned on the water, and played his hose on the flames. In ten minutes, the entire building was ablaze, by half-past one the theatre was burning like a furnace, and by two o'clock this great building, filled a short time before by an audience of some 3,000 spectators, and a large staff of performers, attendants, and workmen, was reduced to ruins. Although Mr. Wilmot, the lessee, and his family lived on the premises, provisionally no lives were lost, but one man (a stableman) was seriously injured by the fall of a wall, and several horses were destroyed. A public subscription has been opened on behalf of the employees of the establishment, who are thrown out of work at a time when the staffs at other theatres are complete. Some of the performers have also lost their wardrobes. The fire is thought to have been due to an escape of gas ignited by one of the jets left burning throughout the night for purposes of inspection.

THE BURMESE NEW YEAR—A WARM CORNER IN MANDALAY DURING THE WATER FESTIVAL

THE New Year in Burma, which commences on the 12th of April, is ushered in with rejoicing and festivities, chief amongst the latter being the Water Festival. The young Burmans of both sexes, decked out in holiday attire, carry out with great zeal the prescribed form for its celebration, and, heedless of their gay raiment, douse one another with water, using squirts of curious design, or having recourse to the less aristocratic but more efficacious chattie, the contents of which are amply sufficient for a small bath.

Foreigners do not escape these miniature showers, and the sketch, by Mr. A. E. Congdon, Lieut. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, depicts the field officer, going his rounds, suddenly attacked by native ladies, boys, and girls, whose squirts and chatties send him on his way congratulating himself that he is wearing khaki, and not a red tunic.

"ROMOLA"

IN the picture which forms our frontispiece Mr. E. Blair Leighton has given us a vivid picture of the heroine of George Eliot's great romance, as she is described during the happiest period of her life, before her union with the handsome and fascinating, but false and treacherous Greek, Tito, has brought sorrow and bitterness to her heart. Seated at her blind father's knee in his library, she is reading from one of the learned tomes Bardo loves so well, while Tito enters to take up his daily duties, and brings "a new vigour in the voice, a new cheerfulness in the blind face" of the old man, and a yet greater feeling of delight to the maiden, whose fate but a few minutes later he is to seal by telling her his love, to be met by the tender avowal, "I know, now, what it is to be happy."

"THE MYSTERY OF MIRBRIDGE"

A NEW STORY by James Payn, illustrated by George Du Maurier, begins on page 17.

CHURCH PARADE AT BRIGHTON

OUR artist's drawing represents a scene which may be witnessed in any garrison town on a Sunday. The locale in the present instance is Brighton, and the soldiers belong to the 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys), who are at present quartered there. The Church parade forms a bit of enlivening colour in the staid and sombre British Sunday. The gay uniforms, and the lively tunes with which the march of the soldiers to their barracks is accompanied, strike upon the eye and ear of the spectator with a sense of agreeable contrast. Church parades are commoner now than they used to be. They are not confined to the Regulars. The Volunteers occasionally follow the custom, while temperance and other associations make such ceremonials an opportunity for collecting subscriptions for charitable purposes.

LONDON MORTALITY decreased the week before last, and 1,501 deaths were registered, against 1,622 during the previous seven days, a decline of 121, being 374 below the average, and at the rate of 18.6 per 1,000. These deaths included 38 from scarlet fever (10 below the average), 30 from measles, 24 from diphtheria, 104 from whooping-cough, 15 from enteric fever (8 below the average), 1 from an ill-defined form of continued fever, 8 from diarrhoea and dysentery, and not one from small-pox, typhus, or cholera. Deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs numbered 357, and were 185 below the average. Different forms of violence caused 46 deaths; 41 were the result of negligence or accident. Four cases of suicide were registered. There were 2,406 births registered, being 337 below the average.

THE METEOROLOGY OF 1887

VERY few years in the generation so nearly approached the ideal of a fine season throughout as 1887. Sunshine was in excess in almost all parts of the British Islands, in nearly every month of the year. Violent storms were very few, and there were no destructive floods. Extreme frost did not prevail beyond the first three weeks of the year. Nor was the heat extreme at any time, though the summer was warm. There was indeed drought in excess, and the large districts of the country, such as the North of England, the greater part of Ireland, and nearly the whole of Scotland, felt the want of rain most seriously during the summer and autumn months, but even the drought had its compensations in the calm beauty and limpid clearness of the atmosphere, for weeks together at a time, when far too often the beauty of the summer is marred by frequent showers.

January was our coldest month. In its opening weeks it threatened for a time to rival the frost of the early part of 1886, when for a period of seventy-five days the thermometer did not rise above 50 deg. in any part of England. But the frost of January, 1887, though severe, was happily short-lived; it was gone by the 10th, and the rest of the month was exceedingly mild and pleasant. The coldest day of January, which was also the coldest day of 1887, was the 2nd. On that day the shade thermometer fell at Cambridge to 12 deg., at Oxford to 14 deg., and in London to 15 deg. The lowest temperatures reported from Scotland in January were 22 deg. at Nairn and 23 deg. at Leith. Sumburgh Head, Shetland, had not a single day in January on which there was frost; 33 deg. was its lowest point, and snow fell in the far North of Scotland on one day in January; while at Loughborough it fell on nine days, at Oxford on eight days, and at Cambridge on seven days.

February was throughout a fine month, bright, sunny, and mild. There was a brief period of hard frost at the middle of the month; but, with that exception, it was genial and springlike. Cambridge was again the coldest place in England, with a minimum of 16 deg. on the 17th; Oxford and London with 20 deg., and 21 deg. also on the 17th, come next to it. Aberdeen and Leith are the two coldest spots in Scotland for the month, with 21 deg. and 22 deg. both on the 10th, while Sumburgh Head again distinguishes itself through the absence of frost, 33 deg. its lowest point. The lowest in Ireland was 24 deg. at Parsonstown. Rain was everywhere deficient in February, in fact the beginning of the long Summer drought. While the larger number of days on which snow fell within the British Islands was five at Stornoway and two at London, most places returned no snow. February did not justify its old name of Fill Dyke.

March was rather a boisterous, cold, and stormy month. Its opening was fine and bright, like the greater part of February, but after the 10th all the fine weather of the month was gone, and frost, snow, and hail took the place of mild sunshine. Cambridge and Oxford are again the coldest places in England in this month; Cambridge being 18 deg. on the 19th, and Oxford the same figure on the 17th. But Scotland pressed it hard with 19 deg. at Aberdeen, and Shetland has this month some experience of frost, for Sumburgh Head returns a minimum of 22 deg. The highest temperatures of the month were 61 deg. at Aberdeen and 60 deg. at York. Snow fell on ten days in March at Aberdeen, Shields, and Oxford, and so on down to a minimum of one day at Pembroke. No place within the British Islands quite escaped snow in March.

April was a cold month nearly all throughout, with the usual spring infliction of east winds. Snow fell in more places and much more frequently than in February, while the days of genial warmth, premonitory of summer, were very few. The drought now came to be rather marked, not quite an inch of rainfall in the month at Hurst Castle, and just over an inch at Oxford and Cambridge, while at Pembroke only six-tenths of an inch, or less than one-fourth of the average of the month, was the total quantity. Cambridge again the coldest in England with 23 deg., Wick the coldest in Scotland with 27 deg., and Sumburgh Head, which had no frost in January or February, has 28 deg. in April. In fact, the far North almost always gets its sharpest cold in the early spring. Cambridge has the highest reading in England as well as the lowest, 67 deg.; London follows closely with 66 deg., Aberdeen has the same figure as Cambridge.

May was also a month of east wind, and it gave little indication of the approach of a warm summer. There was a very brief spell of warm weather in England about the 10th, and another short interval of warmth in Scotland at the 24th. But for the rest, the summer-like days of the month were very few, and there were almost no hopes of a good or early harvest. Cambridge yet again showed the lowest temperature of England with 28 deg., four degrees of frost in May being somewhat of a portent in England. Wick, the coldest in Scotland, with 29 deg. Days on which snow fell, one at Nairn and Aberdeen, and two at Hawes Junction in England. The greatest warmth, 72 deg. at Loughborough, 70 deg. at London, Cambridge, and Leith.

June was our first month of summer. It was also the month of greatest warmth. It is very rare to have the warmest day of the year in Scotland in June, but it so fell out this year. The drought also was the greatest in June. Such figures as 0.10 of an inch at Spurn Head and 0.16 at York as the rainfall of the whole month are extremely rare. The greatest warmth reported in June was 86 deg. at Leith on June 18th. This is the highest temperature recorded in any June in Scotland for many years; 85 deg. at Cambridge, and 84 deg. at London and Loughborough. The lowest shade temperature still at Cambridge, 36 deg. Rain everywhere deficient, most of all in the North-east of England.

July had a partial recovery from the drought of June, but still the rainfall was below the average, Spurn Head having only 0.57 of an inch for the whole month. It was a warm and sunny month, but the heat was not distributed regularly over the month; it came in spells. The highest shade temperature in England was at Cambridge, 89 deg. London came next with 88 deg. The highest in Scotland, 82 deg. at Leith; and the highest in Ireland, 80 deg. at Donaghadee. Cambridge still the lowest in England, with 41 deg. But Sumburgh Head and Wick had minima of 39 deg. and 38 deg.

August had a few more showers and thunderstorms than July, while the heat, except on one or two days of the month, had considerably abated, nine-tenths of an inch at Spurn Head is the least rainfall of the month reported from any part of England. London and Loughborough have both lower readings of the thermometer in the month than Cambridge, but it holds its place for highest readings, 89 deg. being again its figure, London following with 87 deg. Nairn, the warmest place in Scotland for the month, had 81 deg. No place in Ireland touched 80 deg.; at Valentia the highest maximum was only 69 deg.

September saw the close of the warm weather of 1887. Last year both September and October were warm months, with 86 deg. more than once in September, and 80 deg. at least three times in October in London; but in September, 1887, 70 deg. was the highest figure in England, and that at Cambridge; 69 deg. the highest in London; 69 deg. the highest in Scotland, also at Leith; and 67 deg. the highest in Ireland, at Valentia. Cambridge was not quite the lowest reading in England for the month, yet it just touched the freezing point. But Loughborough had one degree of frost, and Wick had three degrees below the freezing point. Rain nearly up to average everywhere, in some places abundant.

October a very beautiful month, with much sunshine and little rain, except in the South-East of England, where it was above

average. There was a sharp snowstorm early in the month, and on the 18th snow was seen at the sea-level in Kent, and over the British Islands generally more snow fell in October than in February. Temperature was low everywhere, the maximum in England 63 deg. in London and at Hurst Castle, and 64 deg. at Leith; the minimum, 23 deg. at Loughborough and 24 deg. at Cambridge; the lowest in Scotland being 28 deg. at Sumburgh Head.

November was a very gloomy month. It began with the one gale of south wind which was worthy of the name of a storm in the course of the whole year. Its rainfall was slightly above the average in most places, and at the middle of the month there came a period of ten days of very sharp frost. The coldest points in England were Oxford and Loughborough, both 19 deg., and Cambridge 21 deg.; the coldest in Scotland, Wick 24 deg.; the maximum in England, 56 deg. in London and Cambridge, and 55 deg. at Aberdeen.

December, for which the completed returns of temperature and rainfall are not yet to hand, has proved itself the most variable of all the months of the year. It has been everything by turns—frost, rain, mist, snow, fog, and back to fresh, clear weather again, and in no phase has it continued long. Less wintry than December of last year, it has also been less enjoyable, and while in Northern Europe it has been one of the coldest winter months for many years, in our own islands till after Christmas we had very few of the usual signs of a hard winter.



PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN SUMMONED to meet on Thursday, the 9th of February.

THE FIRST WEEK OF THE NEW YEAR has been comparatively free from extra-parliamentary oratory. At Winchester, the Attorney-General has been speaking in support of the Conservative candidate, and on Wednesday at Sandown expressing confidence in the prospects of European peace; and the Solicitor-General has addressed his constituents at Plymouth. At Oxford, the Earl of Jersey and Mr. Hall, the Conservative member for the city, stated their objections to the Fair Trade doctrine. Addressing his constituents, at Spilsby, on Wednesday, Mr. Stanhope, Secretary of State for War, ridiculed Mr. Gladstone's complaint, at Dover, that liberty of speech had been curtailed, and added that the Government would not be prevented by such absurd charges from checking the deliberate and wanton waste of the time of the House of Commons.

AMONG A NUMBER OF NEW YEAR honours, the Queen has conferred a knighthood on Dr. William Tindal Robertson (C), M.P. for Brighton, one of the two blind members of the House of Commons; Sir Charles Warren is made a K.C.B.; Mr. John Pender a K.C.M.G.; and Mr. Edwin Arnold, already a C.S.I., becomes a K.C.S.I.—Mr. Ashley Froude, a son of the historian, has been appointed Secretary to the Royal Commission deputed to fix the boundaries of the new electoral divisions of Malta and Gozo.

THE PROMOTERS OF THE CHANNEL TUNNEL have been informed that if they persevere with their renewed Bill during the ensuing Session, it will be opposed by the Government.

IRELAND.—The steady application of the deterrent provisions of the Crimes Act is producing some fruit. Killarney district, in which Mr. Curtin was murdered, has been one of the most disturbed districts of Ireland, but this week when the County Court Judge opened the January Quarter Sessions at Killarney there was not a single case to be brought before him, and for the first time in his experience he was presented with a pair of white kid gloves.—Although the Land Sub-Commissioner reduced by 20 per cent. the rents of 130 tenants on the Kingston estate, the mischievous interference of Mr. Condon, M.P., has prevented them from accepting it, and at his instigation a resolution was adopted at a meeting of the tenantry declaring that they will pay no rent until all the tenants legally evicted have been reinstated.—Four men have been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for taking part in a meeting of a suppressed branch of the National League, at Meleen, County Cork.—The proceedings at Portumna in Mr. Wilfrid Blunt's appeal against his sentence of imprisonment were not concluded when we went to Press.

A FIRE BROKE OUT in the Bolton Theatre Royal about four o'clock in the morning, and in an hour the building was completely gutted, all the artists' properties being destroyed.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The Mansion House Fund of 20,000*l.* for employing 1,300 men out of work under the direction of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, reached 2,000*l.* early in the week. Lord Salisbury is a subscriber of 100*l.*—By the middle of the week 700*l.* had been raised for the sufferers by the fire which destroyed the Grand Theatre, Islington. To relieve them adequately 3,000*l.* it is estimated, are needed.—A magazine arm, slightly over 0.3 bore, rifled on the Mitford principle, has been selected as the future rifle for the armament of the infantry.—New Year's Day was the centenary of the *Times*, previously the *Daily Universal Register*.—The National Thrift Society are planning the erection, in some central position, of a "Thrift Hall," as a memorial of two of its former presidents, the late Lord Shaftesbury and the late Mr. Samuel Morley.—Something like 2,000*l.* have been subscribed to the various funds raised for the widow and family of the late Richard Jefferies.

OUR OBITUARY records the death of the Countess Helen Tasker; in his ninety-sixth year, of Captain Charles Fitzgerald, R.N., formerly Governor of Gambia and of Western Australia; in his sixty-fifth year, of Major-General Thomas D. Ker, late of the Bombay Army; of Deputy Surgeon-General Henry M. Fraser, who entered the medical service of the army in 1849; in his fifty-ninth year, of Mr. Francis C. Alton, since January, 1884, Chief Inspector of Machinery in connection with the Portsmouth Steam Reserve; in his sixty-fourth year, of Major James Hunter, for fourteen years Assistant Secretary to the National Rifle Association; of Mr. Francis Fedden, Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India; in his sixty-seventh year, of Sir James Oldknow, a prominent citizen of Nottingham, of which town he had been four times mayor; in his seventy-third year, of the Rev. William Denton, for thirty-eight years Vicar of St. Bartholomew's, Cripplegate, the author of several works, devotional and other, among them more than one on the Christian Races in Turkey, and "Records of St. Giles's, Cripplegate"; in his sixtieth year, very suddenly, of the Rev. Robert Duckworth, Head Master of St. Peter's School, Weston-super-Mare; in his sixty-third year, of Mr. W. S. Woodin, well known for his drawing-room entertainments; and in his eighty-seventh year, of Mr. William Henry Chippendale, formerly of the Haymarket Theatre.

ANOTHER GOLDEN EAGLE has been shot in Southern England. Almost at the same time that a similar bird was killed by Royal keepers at Bagshot, a fine specimen was bagged on Mr. Norrish's estate, Fordlands, at Tiverton, Devon. The latter bird weighed 10lbs., and had a stretch of wing of 9ft.—about the usual size of an adult female golden eagle, which is larger than the male. The golden eagle has long been extinct in England, and only builds in the Scotch Highlands and the extreme West of Ireland, being thus a most unusual visitor so far south.



I.

SIR HENRY THOMPSON contributes its opening article, "The Progress of Cremation," to the *Nineteenth Century*, where he sketches the history of the practice of disposing of bodies by combustion, so far as it has been adopted in this country. He gives in outline also what he thinks should go to form the main provisions of any new Bill introduced into Parliament to regulate the registration of death and the disposal of the dead.—Mr. Matthew Arnold criticises in a very interesting manner the "Shelley" whom Professor Dowden has revealed to the public. Mr. Arnold regrets the publication of Professor Dowden's two volumes, and expresses surprise that Shelley's family should have desired or assisted it. He winds up his criticism thus:—"The man Shelley, in very truth, is not entirely sane, and Shelley's poetry is not entirely sane either. The Shelley of actual life is a vision of beauty and radiance, indeed, but availing nothing, effecting nothing. And in poetry, no less than in life, he is a beautiful and ineffectual angel, beating in the void his luminous wings in vain."—Sir W. W. Hunter has a valuable geographical historical paper, treating of the Ganges Delta, in "A River of Ruined Capitals."—Among the other contributors are Mr. Frederic Harrison, Professor Goldwin Smith, Professor F. T. Palgrave, Mr. Justice Stephen, Mr. A. C. Swinburne, and the Duke of Argyll, which is a very fair array of distinguished names for one Review.

Sir Charles Dilke in the *Fortnightly* has now arrived at his third paper on "The British Army." He deals in this number with modern armies, and arrives at the conclusion that, among Powers which do not profess to be great, there are organisations more or less suitable to their needs, and that the smallest of the Continental Powers, such, for example, as Switzerland and Roumania, excel in such vital necessities as field artillery, and in general organisation for their own particular requirements. He maintains that all the small Powers, except Belgium, which is demoralised by leaning on our doubtful charity, are better prepared for war than is England, and with them the proportion of the different arms is better adapted for modern war than with ourselves.—Mr. Algernon Charles Swinburne writes two charming "Lines," two short poems. In his first he seeks "A Rhyme" for "babe," and says many pleasant things about babies in consequence. The second is "A Baby's Epitaph" in three stanzas. We quote the middle one:—

Ye that held me dear beheld me not a twelvemonth long:
All the while ye saw me smile, ye knew not whence the song
Came that made me smile and laid me here, and wrought you wrong.

Mr. F. W. H. Myers' "Charles Darwin and Agnosticism" is one of the best and most appreciative papers on the great naturalist's "Life and Letters" which we have read.—Earl Compton and Cardinal Manning both write on "The Distress in London."

Sir Gavan Duffy supplies us with a *resumé* of the political history of the Colony of Victoria in the *Contemporary*, under the heading "An Australian Example." He tells an amusing story of a young English barrister who stood for a constituency where Free Trade was in bad odour, and was pestered by questions which he had never considered. He asked what duty ought to be put on woollens, on dry goods, and so on. At last a shoemaker said, "Pray, sir, what would you put on boots?" "Well, sir," the candidate replied, "if they were patent leather I would recommend French polish, if not, Day and Martin." With this audacious pleasantry he escaped his persecutors. Sir Gavan Duffy thinks Victorian history teaches us how to harmonise democratic suffrage with a limited Monarchy and two legislative Chambers.—The Right Hon. G. Osborne Morgan, O.C., M.P., may be read with advantage on "Welsh Nationality." He hints that the time may be at hand when the aspirations of "poor little Wales" can neither be ignored with impunity nor repressed without danger, and that there are the materials of another Ireland in the Principality.—Mr. Haldane, M.P., writes sensibly and well on "The Liberal Party and Its Prospects," and rightly points out the disaster which must accrue to the Liberal party, if it dallies with Socialism.

The *National Review* opens with a paper by "Q." warmly eulogistic of the present Prime Minister, entitled "Lord Salisbury's Foreign Policy." His conclusion is, however, just a little pompous in its reassuring terms. "As regards their foreign policy, therefore," he says, "the English people need not be solicitous. All is well. Its keeping is in wise, firm, and temperate hands. Peace will be preserved as long as possible. Should war prove to be inevitable, we have powerful allies on whom we can count. Our share in the conflict will be subordinate to theirs, and the chances of victory are immensely in favour of the cause that is jointly theirs and ours." It is to be hoped that "Q." is right, if all is true that is said by experts and others about our army and our navy. We shall badly need, according to all accounts, the double armament conferred by a just quarrel.—A "Belfast Merchant" deserves perusal on "Mercantile Ireland and Home Rule," as showing how utterly disastrous and unworthy Mr. Gladstone's Bills appear to Irishmen of business and enterprise who are neither politicians nor partisans.—Lady Magnus writes in this Review on "The Poor Law and the Church."

Admirers of the late Lord Idlesleigh—and their number is legion—will be glad to find in *Macmillan* an account of "Sir Stafford Northcote" from one who knows him so well as does Lord Coleridge. It will form a useful addition to the materials at the disposal of any future biographer of the statesman who died so suddenly about this time last January, as Lord Coleridge and he were close friends from childhood. The paper is the substance of an address delivered some short while ago to the Exeter Literary Society.—Mr. W. Clark Russell deals in very effective word-painting in "Pictures of the Sea."—"My Uncle's Clock" is a ghost story on quite original lines, if that can be called a ghost story which contains many phantoms, but not one single good old creepy shiver.

"Mary Stuart in Scotland," by Mr. John Skelton, C.B., which begins *Blackwood*, should be a valuable, well-written series of historical papers, to judge from the first instalment, treating of "John Knox and William Maitland." In those two men is shown to be embodied, in the one intolerance, in the other the principle of religious liberty.—M. Charles Yriarte continues his deeply interesting study of "Cæsar Borgia" to the arrest of the Duke of Romagna by the Grand Captain on the 25th of May, 1504.—"The Withered Arm" is an admirably told story of witchcraft—so quaint, weird, and yet realistic, as to suggest a foundation in fact.

The *Atlantic Monthly* opens with a serial, "Yone Santo: a Child of Japan," which promises well, by Mr. E. H. House. The frontispiece is a fine steel portrait—we should suppose life-like—of Miss Murfree ("Charles Egbert Craddock"). This lady also begins a serial, "The Despot of Broomsedge Cove," in which the reader is once more taken into the midst of the wild beauties of the mountains she loves to describe.—Mr. Theodore Child writes a thoroughly good and readable description of "Constantinople."—Mr. J. R. Lowell also contributes to the periodical a short poem, "The Secret."

The frontispiece of the *Century* is an engraving from a portrait of Mr. Ruskin, on whom Mr. W. J. Stillman writes an appreciative article.—Professor Philip Schaff, D.D., has a capital archaeological paper on "The Catacombs of Rome," illustrated with facsimiles of

drawings in the Catacombs.—The paper by Mr. Eugene V. Smalley, on "The Upper Missouri and the Great Falls," with several cuts from most attractive river scenery by Mr. H. Farny, will also bear perusal.

That excellent little magazine, the *Rosebud*, which is so admirably adapted to suit the tastes of very little people, appears this month in a new wrapper, and printed on new paper. The frontispiece is a drawing of a group of cats by Mr. Louis Wain, and is entitled "In the Lap of Luxury."

The first number of the *Playgoer's Magazine* is edited by Mr. Paul Vedder. Its price is only threepence, and it seems an excellent idea, excellently carried out. The frontispiece of the January number is a portrait and autograph of "Henry Irving," on whom, as "Actor and Manager," there is a well-written paper, illustrated with portraits of him as Jingle, Mathias in *The Bells*, and Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*.—There will be a series of papers on "Contemporary Dramatists," and a "Monthly Chronicle of Dramatic Events." The periodical should be invaluable to playgoers.

The frontispiece of the *Art Journal* is a fine, well executed etching by Mr. P. A. Massé, from Mr. W. Q. Orchardson's painting "Hard Hit."—Mr. F. G. Stephens has an instructive paper on "The Schools of the Royal Academy," and Mr. Francis Watt writes pleasantly about "Gray's Inn."

The frontispiece of *Harper* is from Mr. John Lafarge's painting in the Church of the Incarnation, New York, which depicts the visit of the Magi to the Virgin and Child. On the whole subject of the Adoration Dr. Henry Van Dyke writes a seasonable article, "The Adoration of the Magi," which is illustrated from photographs of the original paintings by the great masters.—Mr. J. S. Farrer contributes a useful paper on "The Italian Chamber of Deputies," which will naturally aid the proper understanding of one portion of contemporary European politics.—The article most likely perhaps to attract the reader is "The Share of America in Westminster Abbey," by Archdeacon Farrar.—When it is added that Mr. Black here begins a new serial, "In Far Lochaber," it will be readily understood that this is by no means a weak number of *Harper*.

The *Gentleman* opens with a good short story, "The Silver Ring," by Miss Lilius Wassermann.—Those who care to go over again the narrative of one of the most terrible of modern State tragedies will find it all set forth in the "Story of the Assassination of Alexander II," by Mr. J. E. Muddock.—Mr. M. Leighton's "The Riches of Poverty" is suggestive, though some of the deserving unemployed or of the starving workers might think it fanciful.



ENGLISH FARMING IN 1887.—The hot summer has greatly benefitted the land, and the autumn has been seasonable in its own way also, so that the condition of the average farm to-day is far better than it was a year ago. The season did not take a really good turn until the end of May, but it has been favourable ever since. Deep good soils which suffer most in wet and cold years like 1879, benefit most in years of under-average rainfall and over-average temperature like 1887. Some of the wheat crops secured this year in rich soil have exceeded seven quarters per acre. The total yield of wheat for the United Kingdom probably fell very little if anything short of ten million quarters, and the milling quality is above the average. The yield of barley is not quite a full one as regards bulk, but the superiority of quality and the good colour of samples have been such as to send up prices 2s. per quarter. Oats through lack of moisture have been much below an average, while the same cause led to a partial failure of the turnip crop. Mangolds, kohlrabi, and thousand-headed kale bore up well against the drought, and considerably exceeded the very moderate expectations which were all that farmers, generally speaking, allowed themselves to form. The shortness of the hay crop and the burnt up state of the summer pastures took away the profit of the pastoral farms for the first eight months of the year, but the autumn rains gave a most welcome late growth of grass, while the open character of November and early December weather allowed of cattle being kept out in the fields much later than usual. The minor branches of farming industry, such as the growth of hops, fruit cultivation, bee keeping and poultry keeping, have at least held their own, but a far more extensive industry, that of the dairy farmer, has not made much headway. The low price of butter and milk has been a serious misfortune to the agriculturist without the public reaping much advantage, while the fluctuations in the cheese market, if not all in buyers' favour, have been such as to take a good deal of the heart out of what was regarded as a rising enterprise. The attempt at beet-root growing for sugar has broken down, and there seem to be very few farmers who can make anything out of flax.

SCOTTISH FARMING IN 1887.—Scotland, like South Britain, secured a good yield of wheat, but the average is only about a quarter that of Lincolnshire, and the total return is insignificant. Of barley nearly a full crop was secured, but there were rather heavy rains in September, when the bulk of the North British barley was harvested. Hence neither condition nor colour came out so good as in East Anglia. The drought of the early summer led to a disastrous failure in the oat crop, but curiously enough the turnips did not suffer so much as in England. For one thing they are usually sown earlier, and so had a better chance of resisting the drought. Potatoes turned out a large and remunerative crop, but as a grazing season 1887 cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Pedigree cattle have declined very seriously in value, a bad sign as regards the general wealth and status of farmers. Pedigrees are not less, but more believed in than of yore, but such cattle are a rich farmer's luxury, or at least the investment of the man of means. Both fat and store sheep have fallen in price, but the lambs in the spring were plentiful wool has risen, half a crown per stone, and good rams have been in active request at really high rates. On the whole, therefore, sheep farmers have not done badly. Clydesdales, hunters, and harness horses have sold well, but this branch of stock-breeding is in comparatively few hands. The fall in rents on re-lettings has been very serious, many landlords having to accept 25 per cent. less money than formerly. Labourers' wages have fallen at the same time about 10 per cent., so that it is thought by some good authorities, that despite the burden of foreign competition, Scotch farmers are now once more paying their way. Scotch millers, however, will look upon the past year as one of almost unqualified disaster. The imports of American flour have increased by 40 per cent., and hundreds of Scottish mills have shut down in despair. Things are worst on the west coast, but throughout the entire country the home-milling industry is in a bad way.

THE MARGARINE ACT.—It will be well to remind our readers that this Act came in force on January 1. It provides that all substances, whether compounds or otherwise, prepared in imitation of butter, and whether mixed with butter or not, shall be described as "Margarine," and shall only be sold under that name. Persons dealing in margarine shall, for a first offence under the Act, be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, for a second offence, to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, and, for a third offence, to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds. Packages, whether open or

closed, containing margarine are to be durably marked on the top, bottom, and sides with the word "margarine" in capital letters not less than three-quarters of an inch square. When margarine is offered for sale by retail, each parcel is to be legibly marked "Margarine" in capital letters not less than an inch-and-a-half square. If sold in a paper wrapper this also must be marked. Manufactories of margarine within the United Kingdom are to be registered, and there are several clauses providing for analysis of doubtful samples.

CEREAL AVERAGES for the past year have been extremely low. Of wheat they have been as follows:—January 25s. 8d., February 33s. 9d., March 32s. 11d., April 32s. 9d., May 33s. 7d., June 35s. 1d., July 34s. 4d., August 32s., September 29s. 4d., October 29s. 7d., November 30s. 8d., December 31s. 2d. The average for the whole year has been 32s. 7d., the highest price 35s. 8d., and the lowest 29s. 4d. The range of value has been only 6s. 4d., whereas in times of greater dependence on our home crop it was frequently 20s. This greater regularity in the price of bread should be an immense advantage to poor households. The price of barley has advanced on the year, but is still below 30s. The last month in which a 30s. average was quoted is as far back as 1885, when 30s. 8d. was quoted. Oats have fallen on the year nearly as much as barley has advanced, viz., a couple of shillings. The average price fell to 14s. 11d. in September, and although there has been a little recovery since then, the position of the oat trade is still extremely gloomy. Both beans and peas have been cheap throughout the entire year.



THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE PRESENTS are being removed to the Bethnal Green Museum for exhibition.

THE APPRENTICES' EXHIBITION at the People's Palace closes to-day (Saturday). Up to the end of last week 50,000 persons had visited the collection since its opening on December 10th.

THE COLD IN GERMANY has been so intense as to stop navigation on the Rhine. The river is filled with great masses of ice, which have broken down the bridge of boats at Cologne.

"L'ANNÉE SCANDALEUSE" is the pleasant title given to the year 1887 in France. Scandals of all kinds, and among all classes and professions, simply abounded last year, crowned at the close by the Presidential scandal.

THE PRIZE FOR THE EFFECTUAL DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS offered by the New South Wales Government is being warmly contested. Already 386 inventions have been sent in to compete for the 50,000l. bonus.

A WEDDING-DRESS PATCHWORK QUILT is the latest craze among fair Transatlantic needlewomen. They manage to procure a scrap from the bridal toilettes of all their friends, and work up the fragments into an artistic memorial bed-covering.

AN ODD COMBINATION OF WARES is offered by a shop in the Italian city of Bari, on the Adriatic. A sign informs would-be customers that within can be obtained "Leeches, bread sold in slices or loaves, and tuition in mathematics."

AN OLD MAIDS' INSURANCE COMPANY for young women has been opened in Denmark. Spinsters can insure themselves by a small sum on attaining the age of thirteen, and if still unmarried at forty are entitled to a regular allowance. If they marry, however, they forfeit all claims.

THE FIRST NATIVE "GIRL GRADUATE" has appeared in the Bombay Presidency. A young Parsee lady, Miss Sorabji, has just taken her degree, when only five other competitors were successful—all men. Miss Sorabji has passed through a brilliant University course, winning several prizes and scholarships, while she headed the list in English.

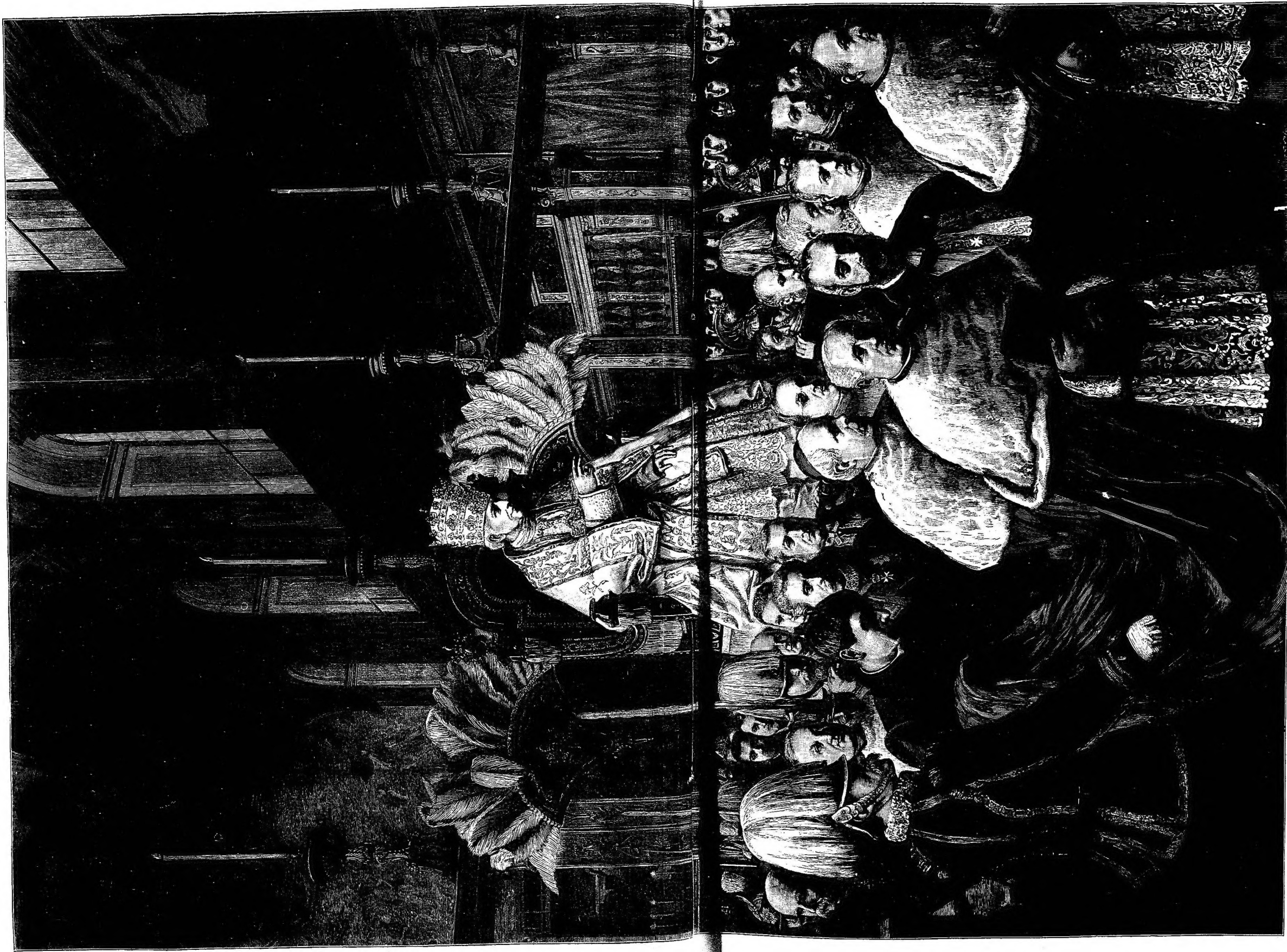
LÉON GAMBETTA has not yet been forgotten by his countrymen even in these days of rapidly shifting politics. Last Saturday being the fifth anniversary of the French statesman's death, numbers of his friends and followers made a pilgrimage to his little house of Les Jardins, at Ville d'Avray, and laid wreaths in his death-chamber, which has remained quite unaltered since Gambetta's decease.

COMPLETE FUR COSTUMES are much worn in the United States this winter. Mrs. Cleveland, the President's wife, has set the fashion with an entire toilette of real fur, and society beauties accordingly go out sleighing in sealskin dresses with pleated skirts of the same fur—rather heavy wear, by the bye. Astrachan skirts are also fashionable, and the English fur cape and toque hat are widely adopted.

"NEWS CLASSES" have been established among Chicago belles in order that they may be able to discuss all subjects of the day when in society. Twice a week the young ladies meet in the afternoon, and are duly instructed on current topics by a highly-educated woman, who takes the daily newspapers, and expounds the most important subjects treated in their columns. This plan is adopted in the hopes of crushing the string of rapid commonplaces usually considered "society talk."

THE "VICTORY" is to resume her old place in Portsmouth Harbour, as minute examination has shown her to be in far better condition than expected. The leak which caused alarm was due to the friction of the cable, and the most important decay was in the inner lining of the ship, which does not impair her seaworthiness. Indeed her framework is splendidly preserved, the New Forest oak forming her sides is perfectly sound, and altogether the *Victory* speaks well for the skill and workmanship of the time when she was launched, May 1st, 1765. On Christmas morning a descendant of the Master Shipwright of Chatham Dockyard, where the vessel was constructed, placed a wreath on the spot of the deck where Nelson fell. Another wreath marks where the great admiral breathed his last, while among other relics on board are the sails used at Trafalgar, shot-ridden and tattered; the barge which carried Nelson's body from Greenwich on its way to St. Paul's, and a copy of the prayer which Nelson said on the morning of his last battle.

A SINGULAR ENGLISH NEW YEAR'S CUSTOM is made known to us by the Paris *Figaro*, which gravely states that no one in England dares wash his or her face on January 1st! If any ablution is undertaken, some member of the family is sure to die within the year. This will be news indeed to the tub-loving Briton. Other New Year portents are mentioned by our lively Gallic contemporary, which are firmly believed in France. It is unlucky to drop a candle on New Year's Day, but lucky to smash a glass. No fair-haired husband should be the first to offer congratulations to his wife, and nobody should leave the house before some one has entered in the morning, for fear of bad luck. A bunch of mistletoe brought into the home means happiness, and if the mistress is offered a cake she will be prosperous for the rest of the year. The fashionable New Year's charm in Paris this season is some fancy gift made of "weasel-skin"—an old talisman of the last century revived. Purses, caskets, &c., are covered with weasel-fur, and are supposed to bring luck to young mothers, engaged girls, and growing damsels. The charm will not work with the sterner sex.



HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIII. IN
ANNIVERSARY OF
FROM THE PICTURE BY



1. Cardinal Secretary of State, Dean of the Sacred College
2. Cardinal Secretary of State, Dean of the Sacred College
3. Cardinal Secretary of State, Dean of the Sacred College
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THE SISTINE CHAPEL ON THE
HIS CORONATION
COUNT ANGELO DE COURTEN

PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRANZ HANFSTÄNGL, MUNICH



THE much-talked-of forged documents have at last been published, and as Prince Bismarck is believed to have made a special point of their contents being made known to all Europe, the relations between Russia and Germany have become much more friendly; Teutonic and Muscovite journals are exchanging polite leading articles, and the chances of the peace of Europe are considered to have been greatly increased. The documents are four in number, three being supposititious letters from Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria to the Countess of Flanders, a Hohenzollern Princess, the King of Roumania's sister, and sister-in-law to the King of the Belgians, and the fourth a forged note from Prince Reuss, the German Ambassador at Vienna, to the Prince. In the former Prince Ferdinand urges the Princess to use her influence with the King of Roumania, and induce him to intercede with the Czar in his (Prince Ferdinand's) favour, and states that he has received assurances both from Prince Reuss and direct from Berlin that, whatever might be the apparent direction of German policy, its real and secret aims were favourable to his rule in Bulgaria. Indeed, the whole tone of Prince Reuss' letter was a distinct encouragement to Prince Ferdinand's enterprise—although the language used was of course guarded. In publishing these documents the Berlin *Reichsanzeiger* denounces them as possessing no foundation in fact, and as having been compiled and fabricated by some persons who have so far escaped detection for the sole purpose of sowing distrust between European Powers. Had the statements in the letters been authentic, German policy might have been reproached with duplicity and dishonesty, as the "German Government has always regarded, and still regards, the venture of the Prince of Coburg as a violation of treaties." This assurance, made by the official gazette of the Empire, manifestly made in return for the Czar's consent to the publication of the documents, is highly eulogised by the Russian Press, and is regarded as an essential sign of peace—especially when backed by the *North German Gazette's* avowal that the publication is "an eloquent proof of the loyal intentions of the Czar, and a paving of the way for a more trustworthy acceptance of the general situation." At his New Year's reception, also, the Emperor is stated to have made some significantly peaceful remarks, but while the Russo-German relations are pronounced to be so much better, those between Russia and Austria are still regarded as dangerously strained.

Nor is the feeling in AUSTRIA itself greatly tranquillised, and M. Tisza while breathing peaceful sentiments, at his New Year's reception, and declaring that he was not one of those who looked upon war as imminent, was careful to qualify this assurance by remarking that although his hopes were improving, he held it to be a mistake to spread a feeling of optimism "because it often paralyses the resisting force which we, though I hope not, may possibly still need." Prince Lobanoff, the Russian ambassador, is stated to have given highly pacific assurances to Count Kalnoky, but the concentration of Russian troops appears to be still proceeding, while the earthworks and fortifications in the Warsaw district are being hastily completed. The total Russian force in the districts of Wilna, Warsaw, and Kiev is now computed at 300,000 men and 700 guns. A number of Austrian reservists have suddenly been called out, but official explanations declare that this step possesses no significance—the men being merely summoned for instruction in the new rifle.

In ITALY, Pope Leo XIII. celebrated his Jubilee Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's, amid a congregation estimated at nearly 30,000 persons, amongst whom were forty-eight cardinals and two hundred and thirty-eight archbishops and bishops. After receiving the homage of the cardinals and bishops, Leo XIII. assumed his pontifical vestments (while robing, he fainted twice from emotion), and then made his state entry into St. Peter's in his gestatorial chair, borne on the shoulders of the sedari and surrounded by his cardinals. As we hope shortly to publish some sketches of the proceedings we will only now say that the Pope, wearing the triple crown presented to him by the Emperor of Germany, celebrated Low Mass before the altar of the Confession, the vessels used in the service being the gift of Queen Victoria. After the Mass the Pope recited the Ave Maria, and a Te Deum was sung. Then reassuming his Pontifical garments and tiara His Holiness reseated himself in his gestatorial chair, and was carried before the great Statue of St. Peter, which had been duly robed in full Pontifical attire, and thence gave the Papal benediction *Urbi et Orbi*—the procession finally returning to the Vatican. The enormous congregation was most orderly, though despite all the exertions of the authorities there was some cheering at the appearance of the Pope. The offerings of Peter's Pence amounted to 80,000*l.*, probably the largest church collection ever registered. Outside the Cathedral order was maintained by a strong body of soldiers.

Unfortunately the celebration of the Papal Jubilee may be the cause of creating a still greater breach than even now exists between the Pope and the King. The orders from the Quirinal to all officials were to take no part in the celebration, but in no way to interfere with it. The Duke of Torlonia, however, the Mayor of Rome, called upon the Cardinal Vicar to offer his Holiness all congratulations on behalf of the Municipality. For this King Humbert summarily dismissed him from his post, and a bitter controversy has consequently raged between the Clerical and Liberal organs on the subject. Nor will the angry feelings thus engendered be quieted by the very hostile tone of the Pope when replying on Tuesday to the congratulations of some Italian pilgrims. In this he showed that his views on the restoration of the temporal power were in no way changed. "The truth is," he said, "that the Pope is Italy's purest and brightest glory, and that Italy united to the Pope would be the first to feel its salutary virtue, and would be everywhere beloved and respected." After comparing the Papacy to a light-house which stands firm, and emerges greater and stronger from persecution, when everything else is rotten, the Pope bitterly inveighed against the perfidy of sectarian hatred which impedes its free exercise, and desires to see it oppressed and humiliated, and subject to the mercy of a Parliament or a Government.—There is no fresh news concerning the Abyssinian campaign, save that General San Marzano is making every preparation to give decisive battle to the advancing enemy.—Mr. Gladstone has been the subject of an ovation in Florence, and an address presented to him, after alluding to his past career, pronounced that "the glorious work is not yet finished; but it will be worthily crowned when a measure of Home Rule for England becomes law."

In FRANCE, as usual, the New Year's festivities have brought about a *trêve des confiseurs*. President Carnot's New Year's reception was favoured by splendid winter weather, and was numerous attended. Poor M. Grévy had very few visitors, though President Carnot was one of the first to call. The President is a distinct contrast, as far as social duties are concerned, to his predecessor, and not only intends to keep open house at the Elysée, but contemplates a Presidential tour through France. There is literally no political news, save that a suggestion made by the *Débats* that the decree of

expulsion against the Duc d'Aumale might now well be cancelled has been taken up so warmly by the Orleanist journals that more harm than good has been done by their imprudent enthusiasm. The *Siecle*, the President's organ, states, however, that there would be no objection to the Duke's return if he would only publicly acquiesce in the existing institutions of the country, or repudiate all the intrigues of which his nephew the Comte de Paris is the head—a very unlikely step for the Duke to take. A Yellow Book has been published detailing the negotiations with England relating to the Suez Canal and New Hebrides convention, but reveals nothing new of importance, save that M. Flourens is a far better Foreign Minister than M. de Freycinet. The triennial Senatorial elections were to take place in thirty Departments on Thursday, and upon their result hangs much of President Carnot's peace of mind for the next three years.

In INDIA, the Native Congress at Madras passed resolutions suggesting an immediate separation of the executive, and judicial functions, the opening of the military service to natives, and the raising of the taxable minimum for income tax to 1,000 rupees. The next meeting will take place at Allahabad. From Burma, satisfactory reports come from the various military columns, which seem to be succeeding in their work of pacification. In Mandalay there is some distress amongst the classes formerly dependent upon the Palace for supplies, and the imposition of the new municipal tax upon the inhabitants, who hitherto have been exempt—Mandalay being a Royal city—is being much discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.—In SERBIA there has been a Ministerial crisis, and the King has accepted a Radical and Russophil Cabinet under Colonel Sava Gruic—a somewhat significant step in the present condition of European politics.—The weather throughout Southern Europe has been very stormy and cold. There has been heavy snow and floods in Spain, and the temperature in Northern Austria is described as Siberian.—In EGYPT there has been further fighting near Suakim, but Osman Digma seems to make no progress, and deserters from his army continually come into the town.—In the UNITED STATES the colliery strike continues. The weather has been very severe in the West, where there have been heavy snow storms.—In CANADA Mr. Chamberlain at a dinner at Toronto spoke most hopefully of the results of the Fisheries dispute, and declared that the prospects of improved relations with the United States never looked more hopeful than at present.



THE QUEEN held a reception at Osborne at the close of last week in order to receive some final Jubilee offerings. These consisted of a tablecloth embroidered by the Bradford women, the ivory casket and address from the South African diamond fields, and silver casket and address from the people of Ceylon, and a copy of Giotto's "Christ bearing the Cross," presented by Mr. Morris-Moore. Her Majesty on Saturday entertained the Maharajah of Kuch Behar at dinner, where Sir H. and Miss Ponsonby joined the Royal party, while afterwards a concert was given before the Queen and her guests by the band of the Marine Light Infantry. Next morning Her Majesty and the Royal family attended Divine Service at Osborne House, where Canon Duckworth officiated, and in the evening the Canon and Major and Mrs. Bigge dined with the Queen. On Tuesday Her Majesty gave audience to the Duke of Norfolk on his return from Italy, and Sir Robert Morier, while Canon Duckworth left the Castle. The Queen also received the Gaekwar of Baroda, who dined with Her Majesty in the evening. Her Majesty will probably remain at Osborne till about February 16th, as it is very unlikely that the Queen will open Parliament this year.—The Royal New Year's Gifts to the poor of Windsor, Holy Trinity, and Clewer, were distributed at the Windsor Riding School on New Year's Eve. Beef to the amount of 3,658 lbs. was distributed in joints varying from 3 lbs. to 7 lbs. to 920 persons, who also received coal tickets, amounting in all to over 68 tons. Her Majesty also gave 100*l.* to the Windsor Clothing Club.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have received further visitors at Sandringham. On Saturday the Russian Ambassador, with Madame and Mlle. de Staal, Sir R. Morier (the British Ambassador to St. Petersburg), and the Dean of Windsor and Mrs. Davidson, arrived, and next morning accompanied the Prince and Princess and family to Divine Service at St. Mary Magdalene's, where the Dean of Windsor preached. All these guests left on Monday, when Lord Hartington, Lord and Lady Rosebery, and Sir Henry James arrived for a few days' stay. The Prince and Princess will keep Prince Albert Victor's twenty-fourth birthday at Sandringham to-morrow (Sunday), and next week the Prince of Wales comes up to town for a few days, and Prince Albert Victor rejoins his regiment at York.

Princess Christian is arranging to recommence her free dinners to the poor children of Windsor. The Princess has been to the Victoria Barracks to give away presents off a Christmas-tree to the children of the soldiers forming the First Battalion Scots Guards.—The Crown Prince of Germany received innumerable New Year's greetings at San Remo from all parts of the world, while the local civil and military authorities came up to the Villa Zirio to personally congratulate the Prince. Some private theatricals took place before the Prince at the Villa on New Year's Eve, when Prince Henry and Princess Victoria played a bright little comedy as a surprise to their father.—Crown Princess Stephanie of Austria has met with a singular accident. While dressing her front hair with hot irons, she inadvertently touched her right eyelid with the heated tongs, and caused herself such pain that it was feared the sight was injured. Happily, the doctors declare that no permanent injury has been done, and that a week's rest will set all right.—The infant son of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland was baptised on the 29th ult. at Penzing, and was named Ernest Augustus Christian George.



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS.—Under this somewhat high-sounding title about a hundred professional musicians met in London this week for a conference. Papers were read, and so forth; but a full report of such things would hardly interest the public. The most practical subject started was that by Mr. Riseley, of Bristol, which dealt with the long-ago-suggested establishment of Provincial Colleges of Music. For the rest, we can only hope that—what with their luncheons, their dinners, and their grand banquets—the various delegates thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the metropolis. If those delegates really meant business, they would, with all the force of professional advice, urge the Government no longer to give grants of money (thousands a

year) for singing by ear, in parrot fashion, at Board Schools; but instead, if they really desired to assist art, to devote half the amount to the education of promising pupils, on the plan so successfully carried out by the Mendelssohn Scholarship. A concert of unpublished works by the members of the Society, given on Wednesday evening at Prince's Hall, was of greater interest. String quartets and other chamber compositions by Dr. Creser, organist of Leeds Parish Church, Dr. Horton Allison, of Manchester, and Dr. Longhurst, the veteran organist of Canterbury Cathedral, as well as by such London musicians as Mr. J. F. Barrett, Mr. Aguilar, and Dr. Praeger, were tried, and if none of them (some by the way were not new) showed to any appreciable extent the gift of that which, for want of a better term, is called "inspiration," yet all were distinguished for soundness of musical workmanship. On Thursday, the programme consisted of published compositions by members of the Society, including Mr. Cowen's charming pianoforte trio in A minor.

CONCERTS.—The last musical performance of the Old Year was the Ballad Concert given on Saturday afternoon. It drew a very full audience.—On Monday a still larger audience, numbering, it is said, nearly 12,000 persons, attended a fine performance of the *Messiah* at the Albert Hall. Here Mr. Lloyd could not sing, as he was suffering from a cold caught during a rapid Continental holiday, but his place was ably taken by the Birmingham tenor, Mr. Charles Banks. The other vocalists were Madame Albani, Mrs. Belle Cole, and Mr. Foli.—On Wednesday afternoon the London Symphony Concerts were resumed, before the largest audience of the season, money being turned away at the cheaper parts of St. James's Hall. A strong programme included Mendelssohn's Scottish symphony (admirably played save that the *scherzo* was taken somewhat slowly), Beethoven's E flat concerto, "The Emperor," performed by Mr. Charles Hallé, and Schubert's songs, "Memnon" and "Geheimes," scored for orchestra by Brahms, and sung by Miss Marguerite Hall.

NOTES AND NEWS.—The Saturday Popular Concerts will commence to-day. Henceforward, owing to the late dinner hour, the Monday Popular Concerts will begin at half-past eight in the evening.—The deaths are announced of Miss Bertha Griffiths (Mrs. Verity), once a vocalist at the Three Choirs Festivals; of Mr. Herbert Ramsden, music publisher, &c., of Bond Street, and Leeds (he was twenty-seven, and was married only last September); of Carl Stepan, long a baritone in Mr. Mapleson's opera and at the Pro-Cathedral, Kensington; and of W. J. Strugnell, a well-known contra-bass player.—On Thursday of this week Mr. Charles Hallé, at Manchester, introduced Wagner's only symphony for the first time to the provinces.—Dr. Bradford's *Judith* will, on February 28th at St. James's Hall, be introduced to West End audiences.



THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHURCH ASSOCIATION, Captain Cobham, has indited another drastic letter to the Bishop of London, in which he comments on that prelate's reply, previously summarised in this column, to a correspondent who complained of his toleration of the ritual at the church which he recently consecrated in Philbrick Gardens. In reply to the Bishop's statement that he is powerless to prevent practices of which he disapproves, Captain Cobham quotes from the Archdeacon's judgment of the late Sir R. J. Phillimore in the Mackonochie case a passage to the effect that a Bishop can, if he chooses, clothe his order with the character of a monition, and disobedience to such a monition would subject the person disobeying to the penalties of contumacy.

EPISCOPAL ADDRESSES.—In a Christmas pastoral letter to the clergy of his Diocese, the Bishop of Carlisle expresses the opinion that, as matters now stand, a very broad interpretation of rules and rubrics in the matter of ritual is needed. The days of rigid uniformity, he thinks, are clearly gone by.—The Bishop of Rochester, in his annual letter to the clergy of his Diocese, says of Church defence that for the clergy to have it on their lips and on their minds is a mistake, and may even be a danger, but that the laity of the Church, both in Parliament and out of it, should constantly be on their guard.—The Bishop of Lichfield, in the course of a pastoral letter to his clergy, referring to the rules of the Church in regard to the diaconate, for a more profitable employment of which he is anxious, objects to the celebration by deacons of the Marriage Service, which is a priestly office, and he will decline to ordain a deacon to any parish where that duty would be laid on him.

THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF ST. PAUL'S, the *Record* is "glad to hear," have granted the use of the Cathedral for the service on Tuesday evening, February 14th, in connection with the Church Missionary Unions of London.

A JUBILEE MEMORIAL WINDOW, with a rather poor poetical inscription by Mr. Robert Browning, has been presented by the parishioners to St. Margaret's, Westminster.

UNDER THE DIRECTION of the Vicar of the Church of the Ascension, Lavender Hill, there was given in the adjacent school-room during the closing week of the old year a series of sacred tableaux, entitled "The Desire of all Nations," and supported by members of the congregation robed in appropriate dresses. The first tableau represented the Expulsion from Paradise, the last the Adoration of the Wise Men, and during each the Vicar read passages of Scripture illustrative of what was being presented.

THE PAPAL JUBILEE was celebrated festally on Sunday in Roman Catholic places of worship. Cardinal Manning preached on the event at the Pro-Cathedral, Kensington, and Cardinal Newman at the Birmingham Oratory.—The Rev. F. R. Conder, who has for some time been assisting Canon Maccoll at St. George's, Botolph Lane, has, it is said, been received into the Church of Rome.

DR. FAIRBAIRN, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, in a communication to the *Nonconformist*, states that the College begins its second year with eighteen men, having in its first year admitted, in all, fourteen students. Two things he pronounces to be specially gratifying, of the fourteen admissions, nine are Nonconformist ministers' sons, and of the College's twelve graduates, three-fourths are honours men, or men who have taken University prizes and College scholarships.



THE NEW CIRCUIT ARRANGEMENTS will make available for more than a month at the commencement of the ensuing Hilary Sittings the services of all the Judges of the Queen's Bench Division for the disposal of the work arising in it.

"PUT NOT YOUR TRUST IN" INDIAN "PRINCES" would seem a moral to be drawn from the story of Mr. M. D. Kavanagh, barrister, of the Middle Temple, who was called to the Bar in 1871, and in 1876 went to practise in India, where he took up the case of th

late Gaekwar of Baroda, and acted as agent and advocate for other Indian princes. A receiving order has been made against him, and he attributes his failure to the remissness of Indian princes in paying him what they owe him. One of his liabilities is a bill for 4754, which he states he gave for the accommodation of an Indian prince, who owes him 3,300l. for services rendered.

MR. MONTAGU WILLIAMS, at the Greenwich Police-Court, after listening to a statement respecting the distress existing in Greenwich and Deptford, wished it to be widely known in the district that there was a poor-box at that Court, and that if the funds were exhausted the box would soon be filled. He believed that the best people to apply such funds were those in authority at the various police-courts, who had the assistance of the police.

THE HUMBLER CLASSES consult on knotty points a police-magistrate, just as those above them consult a "respectable solicitor." At the Thames Police-Court this week, an anxious female inquirer, vaguely described as "a woman," stepped into the witness-box and saying that she had been married thirty years, but during the last twenty-five years had seen nothing of her husband, asked if she might marry again. The magistrate's reply was not quite conclusive, and could have afforded her only a conditional satisfaction. If, she was told, her husband had not been heard of so many years, and if she had reason to believe that he was dead, she might venture to marry again; but should the first husband turn up, the second marriage would not be a legal one.

AT THE BERKSHIRE SESSIONS this week, two men convicted of "welshing" at Ascot races, a conviction upheld by the Court of Appeal, were committed to prison for three months each.



THE ROYAL ACADEMY

I.

THE nineteenth Winter Exhibition at Burlington House is very much smaller than any of its predecessors, but in no other respect does it suffer by comparison with any recent display. The collection of the seventeenth-century Dutch pictures is better than any that has been seen here for some years: the English works are of at least average merit; and there are a few good examples of the Spanish school. If there is no very important Italian picture in the gallery, Italian plastic art is admirably represented in a rich and varied collection of bronze and terra-cotta statuettes and busts, reliefs in *gesso*, plaquettes and medals mostly of the Renaissance period. Among them are some masterpieces of Florentine art, and all are interesting, either from an artistic or an archaeological point of view.

At the end of the third gallery, which, as usual, is occupied by large works of various schools, hangs the well-known picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds of "The Marlborough Family." The composition is not very well balanced, and the artificial back-ground of columns and curtains give an air of unreality to the scene, but it is in many ways an admirable piece of work. The figure of the Duchess, who stands in the centre of the picture, is dignified and at the same time graceful, and the eight girls and boys in the foreground are thoroughly child-like in character, natural in movement, and instinct with vitality. Allegory and portraiture are curiously combined in the very large picture on the opposite wall, "Apotheosis of the Duke of Buckingham," painted in conjunction by Rubens and Jordaens. The Duke, in richly jewelled armour, mounted on a prancing horse, seems to be the work of the great Flemish master, while the Neptune and Amphitrite in the foreground and the sprawling figure of Fame floating in the sky are evidently by his pupil. Like most works of the kind by the painters, it is marked by strength and unrestrained exuberance of style. It is stated in the catalogue that the picture was painted in 1625, but this cannot be, as the Duke was not assassinated till 1628. On either side of this is a stately dignified full-length portrait by Vandyck, one representing "Philippe Le Roy," and the other his youthful but not very lovely wife. A more interesting and, in some respects, better work by the painter, is the half-length of the distinguished scholar and soldier "Sir Kenelm Digby," lent by Mr. Gladstone. The head has strongly-marked individuality, and, as well as the extended right hand, is drawn and modelled in masterly style.

The largest of three excellent works by Velasquez is the full-length portrait of "Don Balthazar Carlos," Prince of the Asturias. The boy, who bears a strong resemblance to his father Philip IV., stands under a fig tree, and with determined energy thrusts a ramrod into his gun. The mastery of style that distinguishes the work is also to be seen in the half-length of a very animated lady holding a black fan in her hand, called "La Femme à l'Éventail." The head is strikingly life-like, and the action of the figure spontaneous and graceful. The picture has fine qualities of colour, and is painted throughout with a firm expressiveness of touch, that has never been surpassed. The third picture by Velasquez, "Figures and Still-Life," from the Duke of Wellington's collection, is of much earlier date, and like many things that he produced during his residence in Italy resembles the work of Carravaggio. A very characteristic example of Ribera's gloomy and austere style is the nude half-figure of "St. Jerome Praying in the Desert," belonging to the National Gallery of Ireland. The Saint is depicted as a very old coarse-featured man, with his hands clasped, and an expression of intense earnestness on his upturned face. The picture is marked by realism of the sternest kind; all the varied modulations of form and texture in the extremely emaciated figure are rendered with the most uncompromising fidelity. Murillo's life-sized group, "Virgin and Child," has fine qualities of colour, but is not otherwise interesting. The face of the Virgin is essentially commonplace in character, and is entirely without expression. A large romantic landscape with small figures, "The Baptism in the Jordan," painted with extraordinary strength and vigour by Salvador Rosa, is finely composed, grand in style, and impressive. The best of the few other Italian pictures are a group of three female figures singing, attributed to Palma Vecchio; and Titian's large "Europa," which we noticed when it was exhibited here three or four years ago.

The central place on the south wall of the gallery is occupied by a full-length portrait of "The Hon. Miss Monckton," seated on a stone bench, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The lady's head, which wears an arch and humorous expression, is splendidly painted, and the picture is remarkable besides for its fine quality and skilful distribution of colour. The landscape background is one of the best that Sir Joshua has painted, and is in perfect keeping with the figure. Little need be said of Benjamin West's two historical pictures, "The Battle of La Hogue" and "The Death of Wolfe," for there is no valuable quality of art in either of them that is not accurately reproduced in the well-known engravings from them. They certainly derive no value from their colour or manner of execution. Gainsborough's full-length of "Queen Charlotte" is a good example of official portraiture, but there are much better things by him in the first room that we shall notice later. Two large Welsh landscapes, by Richard Wilson, both called "Vale of Llangollen," look like studied classical compositions. They are evidently not true to

local fact, but they show the painter's fine sense of style, and are full of suffused light and the most delicate gradations of truthful colour.

At the end of the second gallery, in which, as usual, the Dutch pictures are ranged, hangs the celebrated work by the great master of the school, generally known as "Rembrandt's Mill." It was exhibited here some years ago, and is too well known to need description. It is beyond all comparison the noblest landscape that Rembrandt, or any other Low Country painter, has produced. Besides this fine work there are two admirable portraits by the great Dutchman in the room. One of them, from Lord Wantage's collection, is a fine example of his mature style, representing with sympathetic skill a woman of great age with a penetrating expression on her emaciated face. The "Portrait of a Young Man" in puritanical attire, with a tall steeple-crowned black hat on his head, is of much earlier date. The ascetic and contemplative face, and the gloved hands are painted in broad, firm, and finished style. Both pictures show the painter's keen insight into character, and his rare power as a colourist. From Sir Richard Wallace's collection comes the best work by Frank Hals that we have seen in this country. It is called "The Laughing Cavalier," but the man in a silk embroidered doublet, who stands in a jaunty self-assertive way, with a derisive smile on his face, is not laughing, for his lips are closed. The face and figure are, however, full of vitality, and are painted with an easy mastery and decisive certainty of touch that only Velasquez has surpassed.

THE GROSVENOR GALLERY

THE exhibition just opened at Sir Coutts Lindsay's Gallery will be found highly interesting, both from an artistic and an historical point of view. It is called "A Century of British Art," and illustrates in a sufficiently comprehensive way the progress of painting in this country from 1737 to 1837. Hogarth is the earliest artist represented, and Haydon the latest. It cannot be said that the collection is complete, nor is it very well balanced. Many very able painters of the period are altogether absent, while the works of a few others are unnecessarily numerous. Several of the thirty-three examples of Constable might well be spared, and some of the numerous little pictures by Morland that have recently been exhibited at the Academy.

The fifteen pictures by Hogarth, grouped together at the end of the West Gallery, form a very interesting feature of the exhibition. One of the largest of them, lent by the Queen, represents "David Garrick" seated at his writing table, and his wife playfully taking the pen from his hand. Both heads are strikingly characteristic and animated in expression. Another life-size picture, painted, like this, with great firmness and solidity, shows the great actor in the character of Richard III. starting from his couch and calling for a horse. On the same wall may be seen an interesting portrait of "Miss Ray," the actress who was murdered by Hackman; and three of "Peg Woffington," of which that lent by the Marquis of Lansdowne seems to us very much the best. A more attractive, and, in all technical qualities, a better portrait than any of them, is the half-length of "Mrs. Hogarth" seated in an attitude of graceful simplicity, and holding an oval picture in her lap. Hogarth's fertile inventive faculty, his power of dramatic realisation, and his fine sense of humour are seen in many works—in "The Lady's Last Stake; or, Virtue in Danger," which we noticed not long since, in "The Sleeping Congregation," and in the sketch for the well-known picture, in which pathos and humour are so admirably combined, "The Distressed Poet."

Several of the pictures of the two great masters of English portraiture, Reynolds and Gainsborough, appeared in the exhibitions of their collected works in 1884 and 1885. The best qualities of Gainsborough art are to be seen in the charming half-length portraits of "Miss Hoppesley" and "Nancy Parsons." The refinement and the cultured grace that distinguishes them are conspicuously absent from the full-length of "Lady Petre" hanging at the gallery, and it has suffered much from the clumsy handiwork of the picture restorer. The best things by Sir Joshua are the finely modelled head of the lovely "Mrs. Robinson" as Perdita; and the glowing half-length of "Lady Hamilton" as a Bacchante, which for some reason, not to be found in the picture itself, has sometimes been attributed to Romney. One of the best of Romney's numerous pictures of this fascinating lady, entitled "Contemplation," represents her in classically disposed white drapery, leaning on a balcony. It is a work of great refinement and beauty. So also is the small full-length of "Lady Mansfield," seated in an attitude of statuesque simplicity and grace under a tree.

There are many fine landscapes by Richard Wilson in the collection, and one of surpassing beauty, a spacious "View between Dolgelly and Barmouth," suffused with warm summer light. It is even more harmonious in composition, and more refined in tone than either of the two fine pictures, very similar in style and subject, by him at the Academy. Among the numerous works by Constable, the large "Hadleigh Castle" and "The Glebe Farm," overshadowed by moving clouds, best show his rare power in rendering transient effects of atmosphere and light. The view of "Salisbury Cathedral," seen through an avenue of tall trees, is exquisitely pure and luminous in tone, and shows a finer sense of style than anything we have seen by him. The Norwich school of landscape painters is very largely represented. There are many early pictures by Old Crome, in which the influence of the Dutch landscape painters is clearly to be seen, and two or three fine works of a later period. A small river scene, with a barge and many figures in the foreground, is remarkable among them for its broad simplicity of treatment and subtle beauty and truth of tone. A picture of fishing boats in a stormy sea, "Off Ecclestone," is very much the best of many indifferent examples of Cotman's work. The three pictures by George Vincent are very disappointing; but Stark is seen quite at his best in a "View on Stratton Strawless Common," which looks very like a work of Hobbema. There are several fine pictures by Turner in the collection, but a large proportion of them, including all the best, have been shown within the last few years at the Academy.

Among the *genre* pictures none better deserve close examination than two small scenes of English provincial life, by William Mulready, "The Widow" and "Idle Boys." The latter, lent by Thomas Woolner, R.A., represents a village schoolroom, with a stern pedagogue and two young culprits, one wincing with pain, and the other waiting his turn for castigation. All of them are strikingly true to Nature in character, gesture, and expression. The scene of "The Widow"—which has for a motto, "So mourned the Dame of Ephesus her Love"—is a parlour behind a village shop. Here a portly widow is seen listening with complacent pleasure to a young man who, stretched at his ease on a chair, as if assured of his position, is lazily making love to her, while an old servant looks at them with undisguised anger and indignation. The picture is full of expressive humour, and is remarkable besides for its technical completeness, its purity of colour, and finished workmanship. Another admirable work of the same class is Wilkie's "Letter of Introduction," well known by engravings. The painter rightly considered this one of his most successful works. It shows a penetrating perception of character, and great power of expression; it is full of carefully-studied detail, and painted in excellent style.

CHRISTMAS FARE FOR BRITISH APPETITES is largely supplied by the Normandy farmyards. From Honfleur alone 300,000 head of poultry were despatched to England for the Christmas markets—50,000 more than last year, and including 20,470 turkeys, and 212,575 geese.



THE TURF.—The frost was not sufficient to prevent the Manchester New Year's Meeting on Monday and Tuesday from taking place. On the first day Winthorpe won the New Year Handicap Hurdle Race, Coronet a Hunters' Steeplechase Plate, and Frigate the Manchester Handicap Steeplechase. On the strength of this victory the last-named was made favourite next day for the Trafford Park Handicap Steeplechase; but could only get second, Bay Comus proving the winner. Dan Dancer won the January Hurdle Race, and Brenhilda a Maiden Hurdle Race.

An investment of 10l. upon each of Watts's mounts last season would have resulted in a loss of over 500l., on George Barrett's of over 300l., and on Fred Barrett's of close on 500l.; but on S. Loates the backers would have made about 350l., as several of his winners started at very remunerative prices.

CRICKET.—The English teams continue to do well in Australia. Mr. Vernon's Eleven had the best of the draw with South Australia, in spite of the latter's big score (493) in the second innings, and since then have scored 292 (Mr. A. E. Newton 77, and Rawlin 78, not out), and inflicted a heavy defeat upon a team of All Australia. Shrewsbury's team ran up 389 (Preston 78) against Eighteen of Sandhurst, and had the best of the draw.

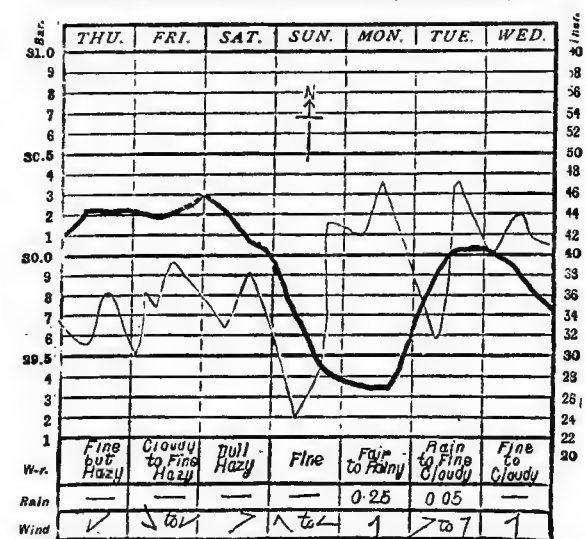
FOOTBALL.—To-day (Saturday) the fifth round of the Association Cup competition is to be played, after which only eight clubs will be left in. Both the Aston Villa (holders) and Preston North End teams have gone into strict training for their match, which excites the keenest interest. In the fourth round, the Swifts were beaten by Crewe Alexandra, who have thus temporarily scored by their sharp practice at West Kensington. The Southern Clubs have not been as successful as usual in their Northern tours. The Casuals defeated Long Eaton Rangers, but were beaten both by Gainsborough Trinity and by Newton Heath, while the Corinthians have been successful over Durham County and Northumberland, but were badly beaten (on a snowy ground, it is true) by Queen's Park. The New Year's matches between Scotch and English Clubs were not as numerous as usual. Preston North End (Reserves) drew Cowlairs and defeated Heart of Midlothian; the last-named were also beaten by Blackburn Rovers, and Kilmarnock succumbed to Bolton Wanderers. Rugbywise, Bradford and Fettesian-Lorettonians have played a drawn match.

BILLIARDS.—Roberts, playing spot-barred, beat White (all in) last week. The loser has challenged the Champion to a similar match on a low-cushioned table. White is also matched to give Dowland 1,000 in 12,000, all in; while Richards and McNeill are matched to play on even terms, spot barred. This week the last-named is playing White, spot barred, while the Champion is playing A. Bennett, the latter being allowed to play the spot. So that the billiard world is busy.

MISCELLANEOUS.—That well-known and veteran trotter, "Ginger," trotted from London to Brighton last week in 4 h. 16 min. —Carr, a stalwart young North-country sculler, easily defeated William East, winner of Doggett's Coat and Badge, over the Tyne Championship Course on Saturday. Carr has challenged the winner of the Ross-Bubear match.—The Bicycle v. Cowboy Race at Birmingham reversed the Agricultural Hall result, as the three bicyclists beat the two horsemen by nine miles.—Up to the time of writing nothing had been heard of Mr. Archibald McNeill, the missing journalist, whose unaccountable disappearance has excited so much interest.

WEATHER CHART

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1888



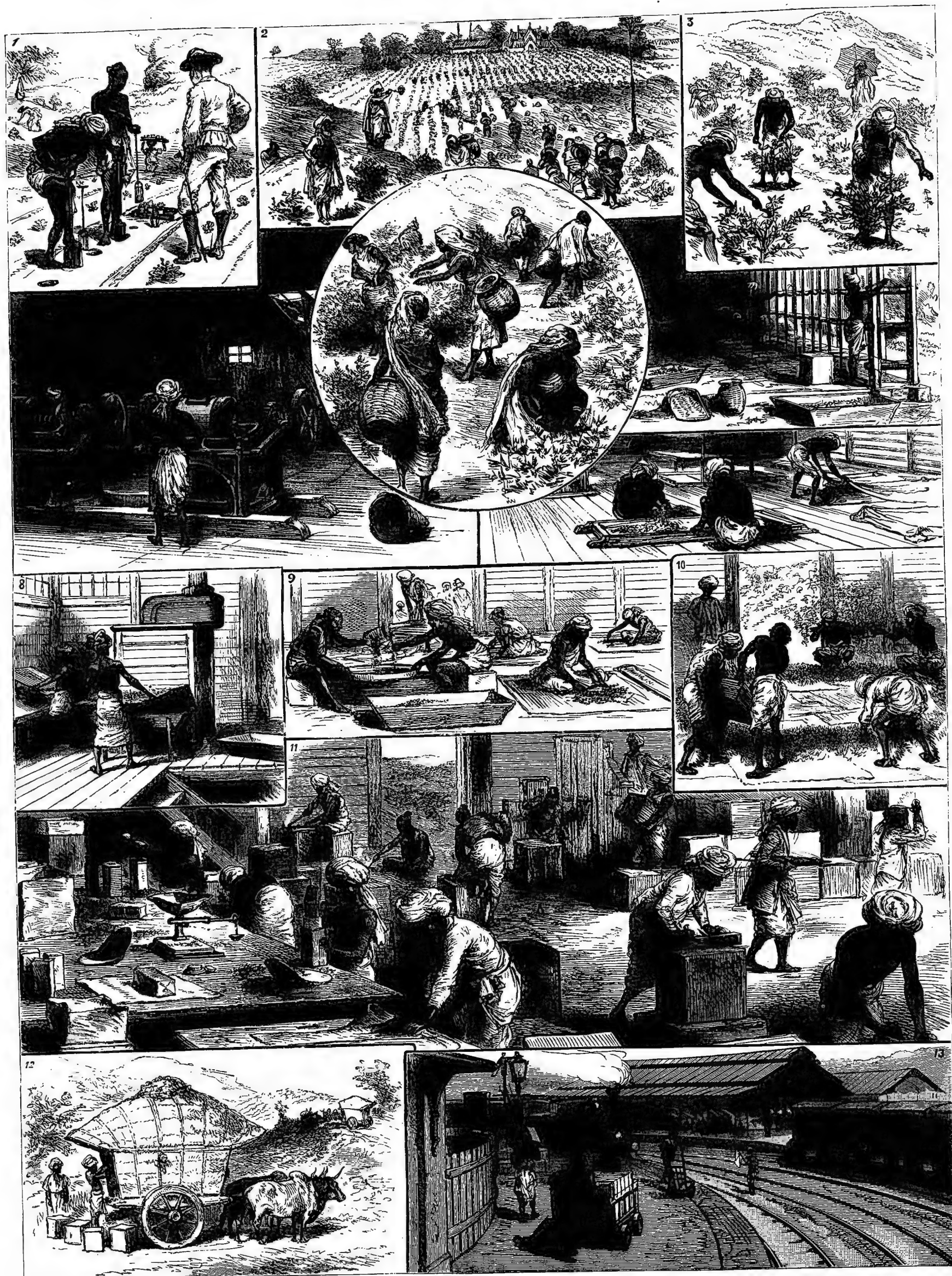
EXPLANATION.—The thick line shows the variations in the height of the barometer during the week ending Wednesday midnight (5th inst.). The fine line shows the shade temperature for the same interval, and gives the maximum and minimum readings for each day, with the (approximate) time at which they occurred. The information is furnished to us by the Meteorological Office.

REMARKS.—The weather of the past week was cloudy and cold in most places, with snow in the North, and rain or sleet in many other parts of the United Kingdom towards its close. During the first part of the week pressure was highest over our Islands or Germany, and lowest over the Gulf of Genoa and the Baltic. The winds varied a good deal in direction, but were chiefly from the Northwards at first, and afterwards from the South-Westwards, while in force they were very light generally. The weather was cold and cloudy, with some showers in the North, and a little snow in the course of Thursday night (24th ult.) over Central and Eastern England. At some of the Central, Scotch, and English Stations rather sharp frosts were experienced, and on one or two days the maximum daily temperature did not rise to the freezing point. By Sunday (1st inst.) a distinct change in the distribution of pressure had set in, with a briskly falling barometer and gradients for Southerly breezes generally. The change in the weather, however, progressed but slowly at first, and it was not until the evening that temperature began to rise, when between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m. the thermometer in London showed the large increase of 14°. During the remainder of the week several depressions were observed within our immediate area, and the weather consequently fell into a very unsettled condition in all parts of the United Kingdom. South-Westerly winds predominated, and gradually increased in strength, till at the close of the time heavy gales were experienced over the more Western half of the country, while showers and very unsettled conditions had become very general. Temperature was below the average generally. The lowest readings, which showed about 10° or 12° of frost, occurred over the Central parts of Scotland and England about the middle of the period.

The barometer was highest (30.29 inches) on Saturday (31st ult.); lowest (29.34 inches) on Monday (2nd inst.); range 0.95 inch.

The temperature was highest (47°) on Monday and Tuesday (2nd and 3rd inst.); lowest (24°) on Sunday (1st inst.); range 23°.

Rain fell on two days. Total fall 0.30 inch. Greatest fall on any one day 0.25 inch on Monday (2nd inst.).



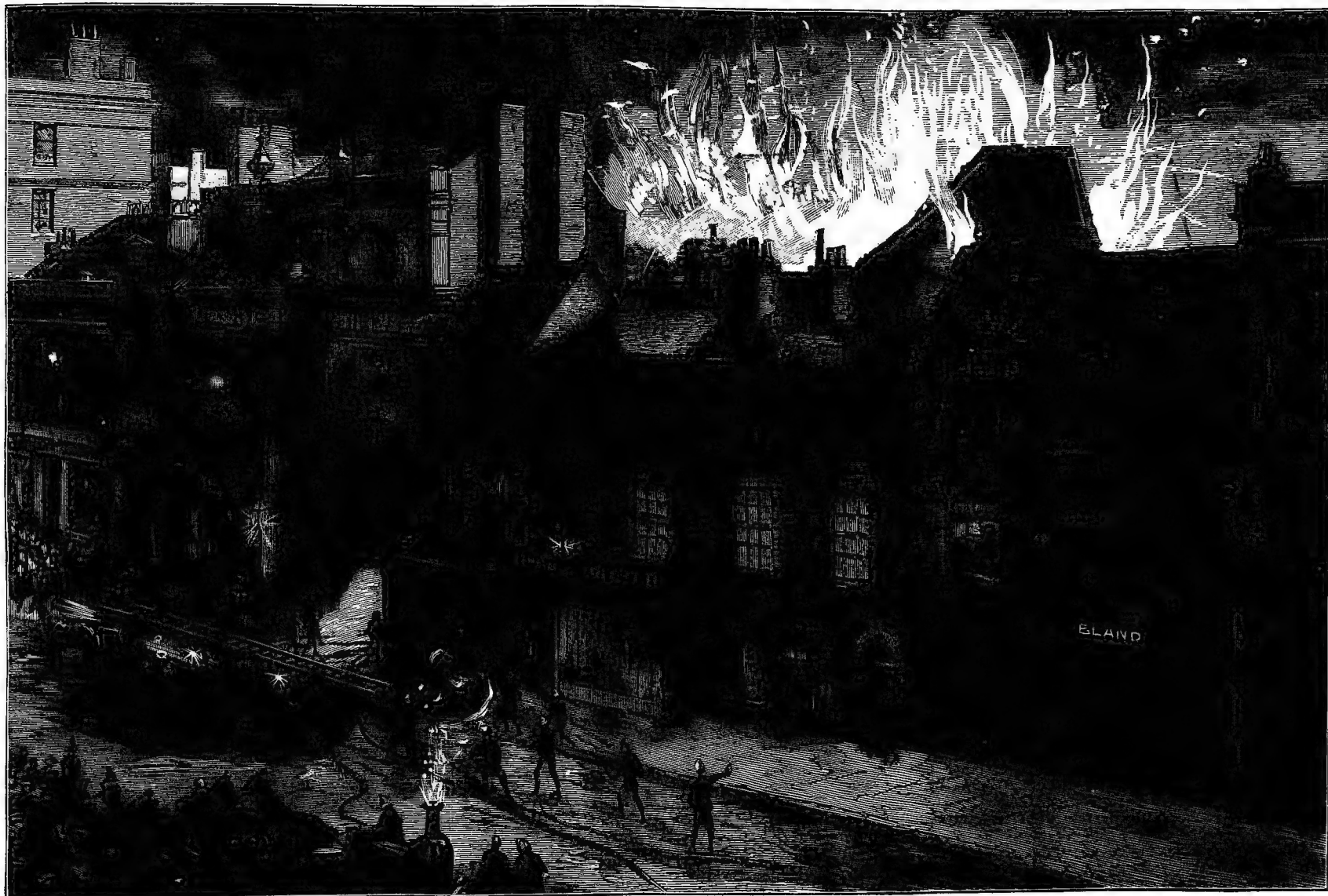
1. Planter and Transplanter
2. Roll Call at Blackstone Estate, Ambegamowa District

3. Pruning
4. Picking Flush
5. Rolling

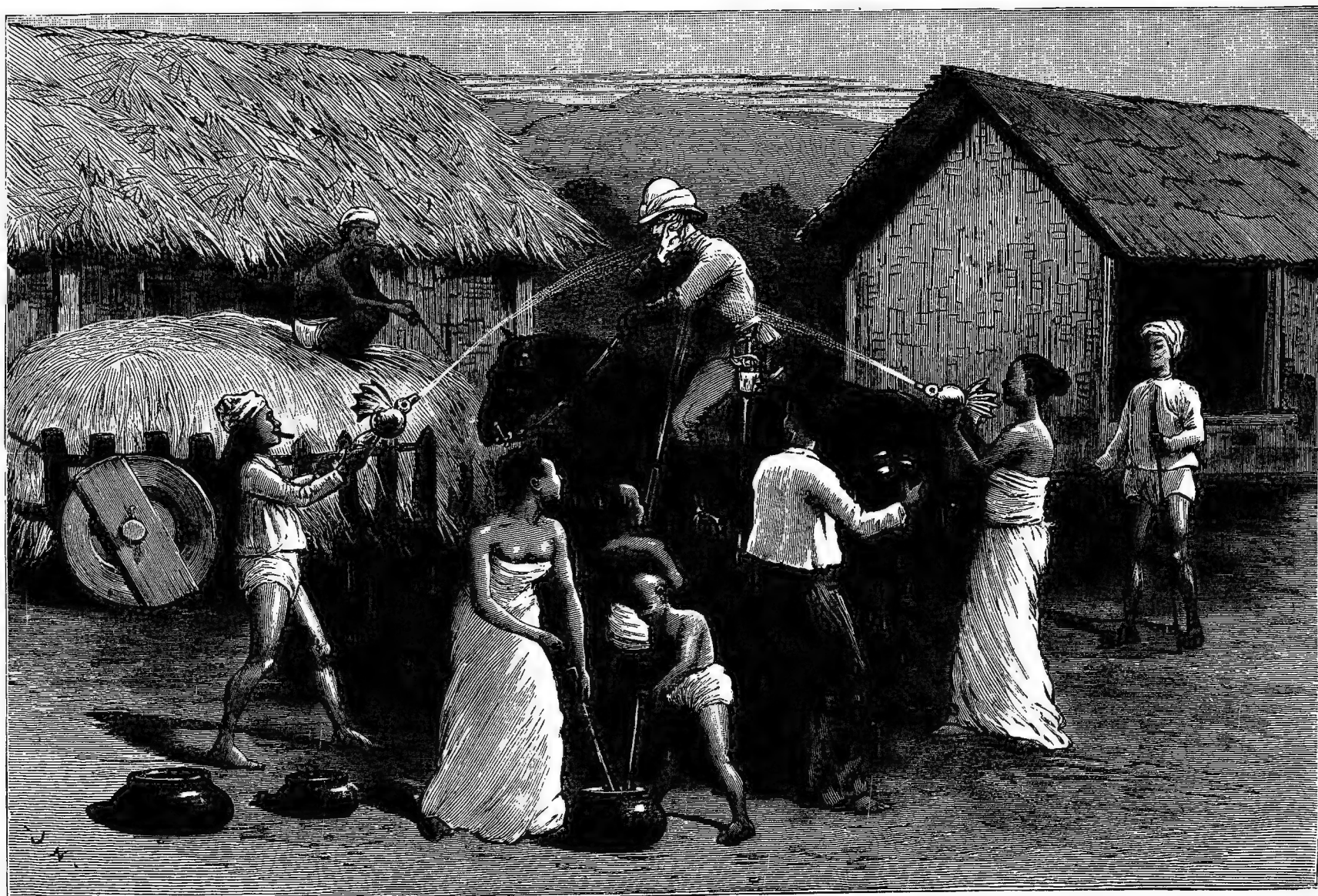
6. Withering
7. Fermenting

8. Drying
9. Sifting and Sorting
10. Bulking

11. Packing
12. Despatching by Cart
13. At the Railway Station



THE BURNING OF THE GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON



THE BURMESE NEW YEAR
A WARM CORNER IN MANDALAY DURING THE WATER FESTIVAL

FIRES IN THEATRES

I.



MONDAY week is the date fixed by the management of the St. James's for the revival of *A Scrap of Paper*. Mr. Hare, who for some time has had no part to play on the St. James's stage, will appear on the occasion as Dr. Penguin. Mr. and Mrs. Kendal will, of course, resume their respective characters of Colonel Blake and Susan Hartley. The part of Lady Ingram will, for the first time, be played by Mrs. Beerbohm Tree.

It is stated on good authority that notwithstanding the recent improvements in the construction of our theatres, and the additional precautions taken against fire, our insurance offices do not consider that this class of risk is perceptibly diminished. The rates of insurance still range between 30s. and 3½ per cent., two guineas being the rule with the West End theatres. Drury Lane, it appears, holds out against such high rates, and prefers to go uninsured. As some kinds of private dwellings are insured for 1s. 6d., while some theatres cannot get insured under 3½, it follows that in the opinion of experts there are playhouses which are forty times more likely to be burnt than some dwelling-houses.

The Winter's Tale at the LYCEUM, which seems rather to rise than to decline in popularity, attained on Tuesday its hundredth night. It is now understood that Miss Mary Anderson will continue her performances up to Easter. Miss Anderson will return to America next summer, and will make her appearance early in November next at Wallack's Theatre, New York, under the direction of Mr. Abbey.

The Red Lamp has at last been extinguished at the HAYMARKET, and its place has been taken by Mr. Robert Buchanan's new drama, entitled *Partners*, of which we shall speak next week.

At the SURREY there is a good rollicking old-fashioned pantomime—*Sinbad and the Little Old Man of the Sea*—in which Mr. George Conquest enacts the Old Man of the Sea with genuine dramatic power and humour. It is certainly safe to say that such a finished piece of acting is not to be seen in any other London pantomime. The story of Sinbad is, as usual, much altered to suit histrionic circumstances, but we have a capital scene of a ship at sea, while the Valley of Diamonds is as glitteringly gruesome as could be desired. Sinbad is cleverly personated by Miss Florrie West, a rising young actress, who is decidedly improving every year. Our old friends Messrs. Vincent and Dan Leno sing as vigorously and dance as lustily as ever as a comic tinker and tailor, Mr. Dan Leno's clog-steps being particularly agile. Mr. Cyrus Bell makes a good comic soldier, Miss Jenny Lee is a capital old lady, while Miss Lydia Reynolds and Miss Patty Heywood look pretty and act gracefully as the two heroines. In the harlequinade Mr. H. Ewins makes a brisk Christmas clown, and we strongly suspect that if a juvenile census of opinion could be obtained the verdict would lie strongly in favour of the old Surrey, notwithstanding the more gorgeous "appointments" of the West End theatres.

At SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE *Blue Beard* forms the subject of the pantomime, which this year is decidedly above the usual average at this house. No pains have been spared to make the whole performance brilliant, gorgeous, and amusing, and there is no end of fun for the little folks. The arrival of Blue Beard (Mr. Henry Wardroper) in his galley manned by slaves, dependents, wives, and soldiers, gives opportunity for fine scenic display, while the picture of the palace of that ferocious potentate deserves especial mention. A real stag hunt, a procession of live elephants, and an exhibition of old English sports and pastimes, of which the great feature is a pugilistic encounter conducted with gloves in the most orthodox fashion, lead to the Transformation Scene and capital harlequinade. The usual circus performance preceded the pantomime.

The story of the BRITANNIA pantomime, as usual, is original, its title being *King Tricke*; or *Harlequin the Demon Beetle*, the *Sporting Duchess*, and the *Golden Casket*. It is written by Mr. J. Addison, and contains several capital scenes, of which the best are a "Harvest Festival," a very remarkable ship, called "The Crazy Sarah," where a lot of rough fun takes place; "The Home of the Woodbine," where there is a tastefully-arranged ballet; and the superb transformation, entitled "The Apotheosis of Britannia." The transformation is always a great feature in Mrs. Lane's theatre, and Mr. Charles has surpassed himself in this scene. Mrs. Lane herself plays the part of the Sporting Duchess mentioned in the title.

Mr. Burton Green, the successor to Mr. Cave, is to be congratulated on the success of his first pantomime, *Jack the Giant Killer*, at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE Theatre. The pantomime is played by a strong company, which includes Miss Maud Stafford, from the Surrey Theatre, who makes a charming Jack; Miss Lizzie Russell as Reeljum, the pretty daughter of the Baron Blusterow (J. G. Johnson), a part which suits her admirably; and Mr. G. B. Prior as Jack's mother, who adds materially to the fun and hilarity of the piece.

The Paris Hippodrome, OLYMPIA, provides a remarkable instance of the development of circus shows during the past few years. The old-fashioned circus can scarcely be compared with such an entertainment as this. There are, of course, many items in the programme of the same character as formerly, though probably much better carried out, such as acrobatic performances, but such a spectacle as the attack by Arabs on a French military train, and the encampment of Arabs and French troops, is both realistic and imposing, and could, of course, only be attempted in a hall of the gigantic proportions of Olympia.

At the ALBERT PALACE Colonel Joe Shelley (Mexican Joe) and his famous Mexican Rangers go through their programme of horse-riding, shooting, &c. The performance is almost similar to the recent Buffalo Bill entertainment, but on a much smaller scale, some of the same features, such as riding bucking ponies, rifle shooting, and lassoing cattle, being reproduced. The entertainment includes amongst other novelties, a cowboys' quadrille and an Indian foot race against a horse, and closes with a farewell salute to the audience in native fashion.

The programme at MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S Entertainment for the New Year consists first, of *Tally-ho!* written and composed respectively by Messrs. Malcolm Watson and A. J. Caldicott, and performed by Mr. Alfred Reed, Miss Fanny Holland, Miss Kate Tully, and others. Then followed one of Mr. Corney Grain's musical monologues, entitled *Our Servants' Ball*. This is a very brisk and amusing piece of its kind, treating as it does of the comic side of high life below stairs, while by no means sparing the denizens of the drawing-room.

M. Sardou has written the libretto of the new opera, by M. Massenet, which is to be produced at the GRAND OPERA in Paris. It is on the subject of the Conquest of Mexico by Pizarro.

Mrs. Langtry now travels by rail on her round of engagements in America in "a sumptuous private car," built expressly for her. A New York paper says that "the two private cars owned by the Queen of England on the Continent are mere freight trucks compared with this palace upon wheels."

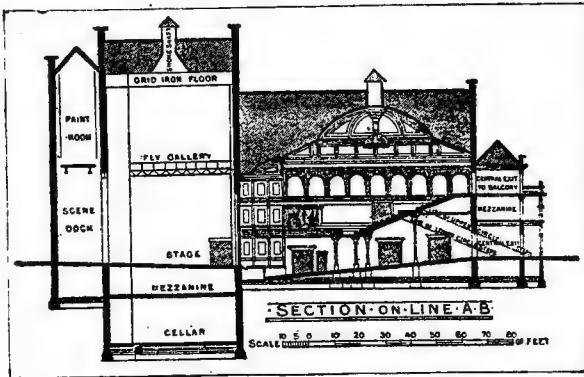
The drama founded on Lord Tennyson's *Elaine*, now performing at the MADISON SQUARE Theatre, New York, appears to be, by general consent, a brilliant success.

FOR some weeks after the terrible fire at the Exeter Theatre the Press teemed with letters emanating from all sorts and conditions of men, in each of which the writer favoured the world with his own special views of what ought to be done, if not altogether to preclude, at least to greatly lessen, the likelihood of any similar calamity in time to come. That a considerable number of these suggestions are of the utmost value, and practicable in a greater or lesser degree, may at once be admitted; indeed, nothing less could have been expected, seeing that the authors of many of them are men who, in one capacity or another, have been connected with theatres all their lives, and have presumably a thorough practical acquaintance with the questions they have taken upon themselves to ventilate. Some of these opinions and suggestions are here reproduced, and they seem especially seasonable just now when the burning of the Grand Theatre, had it broken out while the audience was still in the house, might have caused as great a sacrifice as occurred at Exeter.

If we go back for a few moments to the most largely fatal catastrophes in the theatrical annals of recent years, we are struck by two or three pregnant facts. The first is, that in every case the fire originated behind the curtain; that is to say, among the scenery or other "properties" directly connected with the stage. The second is the astounding rapidity with which the flames spread themselves through the other parts of the house. Thus, in the case of the Dublin Theatre, we read that "in about an hour's time the building was a mass of ruins," while of the Exeter fatality we are told that "in about a minute and a half the stage was a mass of flames, and the curtain blown out on the audience in one sheet of fire."

The third fact to be borne in mind is, in the words of the *Saturday Review*, which recently instituted a sort of house-to-house visitation of the metropolitan theatres and music-halls, that "in theatrical fires most of the deaths are caused, not by burning, but by suffocation, nervous shock, and the effects of the horrible struggle for life, which is the result of a panic and blocked exits. It is the opinion of the Paris medical men that not a single person in the auditorium was burnt to death at the Opéra Comique. The victims died from exposure to the choking vapour, or killed one another in the narrow passages. In the Spitalfields and Sunderland disasters there was no fire to be responsible for the loss of life which ensued." Various authorities agree in recommending that an iron drop curtain should be obligatory at every theatre, and that it should be used once at least during every performance. The universal adoption of the electric light is also warmly urged, as well as the necessity of all the woodwork, flooring, stage work, hangings, decorations, textile materials, and even the light dresses of performers being rendered unflamable, while the house itself

should be divided into two fireproof compartments, the stage and the auditorium. Others advocate the construction of iron balconies on the outside of every tier, and with regard to this Mr. Blundell Maple, M.P., has stated that he has already adopted this plan on his premises, so that his employees may escape in case of fire at night time. It is universally admitted that a properly constructed theatre should be an isolated building, provided with far more numerous exits than at present, leading both to outside balconies and into the street, for as one manager sensibly remarks, "the panic would cease as soon as the audience found itself outside the walls. The pit should have doors opening round the entire space, so that wherever the panic-blinded person rushed it would lead him surely into an opening of safety. Hydrants and hose," he contends, "are absolutely useless inside a theatre. Fire spreads too rapidly to permit of a man remaining inside the walls to use a hose. The 'gridiron,' instead of being made of wood, should be an entire floor of thick iron waterpipes, perforated in such a manner as to flood the whole stage. There should be three methods of freeing the water; one by handles on the stage, another by a like contrivance in a small shed outside the theatre, lastly automatically, the heat of the fire being the means of releasing the water. All rooms behind the curtain should be fitted with automatic sprinklers. An iron curtain should be insisted on—not one made of iron that crumples up like a piece of paper when subjected to a red heat. This curtain should be worked automatically by heat releasing it, and by two levers, one inside and the other outside the theatre." Another manager recommends that inclines should be adopted in place of steps, while further suggestions are that the gas battens should be enclosed in a cage of wire mesh in place of parallel lines of wire as at present, and that the top of the stage should be made to slide off in sections secured by hinges and ropes, which, if not unfastened, would soon burn through and let the traps fall open, so that the smoke and flames would not be driven to the auditorium, but find a vent in the open air. In opposition to some of these ideas, our contemporary, the *Builder*, does not think that the suggestions for exterior balconies are very rational. If they were to be made safe against a sudden crowd, they would be very costly to construct; and, if audiences become panic-stricken there would very likely be as much loss of life from a rush to the doors into the balcony—and perhaps even from the crowd pushing those in front of them over the parapet—as from the rush to the ordinary exit doors. A correspondent of the same journal suggests, as an excellent mode of egress from the upper parts of the theatre, a very broad staircase, with the addition of a new wall about 4 ft. 6 in. high down the middle, so that a



MR. IRVING'S SAFETY THEATRE

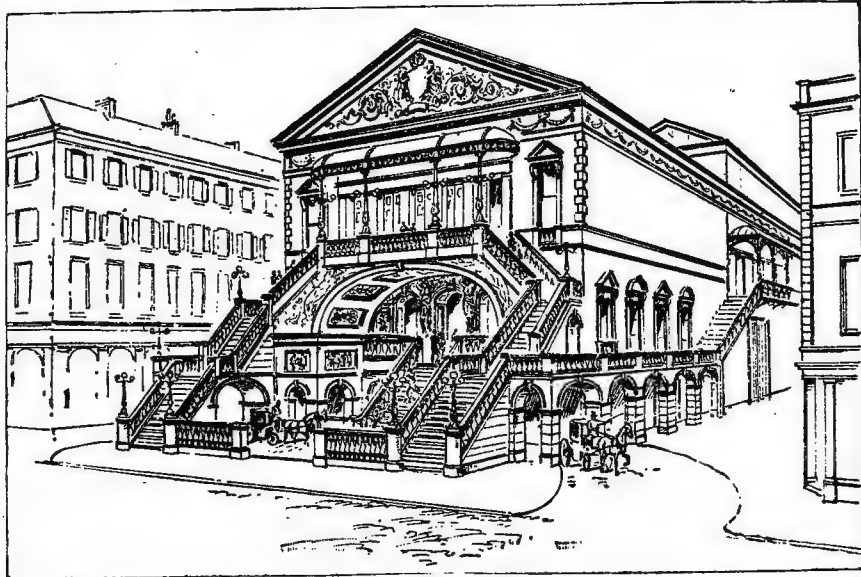
person could look over it, forming two separate staircases side by side. No pass-doors should be allowed to enter this staircase from any other part of the building. It should be built of concrete, and

enclosed by brick walls from top to bottom, with a concrete flat or roof, thus making it absolutely fireproof. It should be lighted either with oil lamps or electricity in case of gas failure.

A really "safe theatre," however, has been projected by Mr. Henry Irving and Mr. Alfred Darbyshire, a Manchester architect. The principles of this ideal structure are, that it should be fireproof that the exits should be short and absolutely straight, that the main portion of the audience should be concentrated upon the ground floor, that the building should be only one storey high, and stand in its own grounds. Mr. Irving would abolish the lofty gallery, and locate the gods at the back of the pit, where they would be secured a good view by the dress circle overhead being raised to a sufficient height. The single storey would be devoted to the dress and upper circles reached by straight staircases communicating directly with the street. There would be four public exits from this part of the house, and no openings to any staircase except that direct from the auditorium. There would be separate entrance and exit doors, but in case of emergency the former would be always available as a mode of egress, all the doors being made to open outwardly. The theatre would be warmed by means of hot air driven through the flues, the lighting would be wholly effected by electricity, while the stage would be absolutely sealed from the auditorium by an asbestos curtain, so that in the event of fire, the auditorium would be completely isolated, while, as our diagram will show, shaft-outlets are provided for the smoke, which is even more disastrous than the flames. For the safety of the performers, who are generally very little considered in schemes of this kind, there would be numerous exits leading directly from the stage and dressing-rooms to the street.

Mr. Augustus Harris, however, does not wholly agree with his illustrious contemporary. After stating that in the immense building he controls firemen are on duty night and day; that periodical fortnightly drills take place, when mock alarms are sounded from various parts of the theatre, and the men have to go through the whole mechanical operation of extinguishing a fire, he remarks that in all places of amusement the passages within and without the auditorium should be kept clear of seats, and the attention of the public should be directed by large placards to the readiest and quickest means of egress. The gaslights in all parts should have wire protections, and there should be easy access to all hydrants. Mr. Harris sees no advantage in fireproof curtains. In his opinion the first thing to do is to raise the curtain, and thus afford additional means of escape, whether the fire occurs on the stage or in the auditorium. Neither is he in favour of electric-lighting; he argues that there is great danger in it in case the wires should get heated. The gas ought to be so arranged that it can be cut off at a moment's notice. In the inability to perform this operation in many provincial, as in many Continental theatres, there lurks a great danger. He particularly emphasises abundant doors of exit.

The subjoined cut illustrates an ideal theatre, suggested by an artist correspondent:—



AN ARTIST'S IDEAL THEATRE

This design provides for all staircases being in the open air, and all doors opening immediately into the street. As it is compulsory that all staircases should now be of stone, there is no reason why they should not be made architectural features.

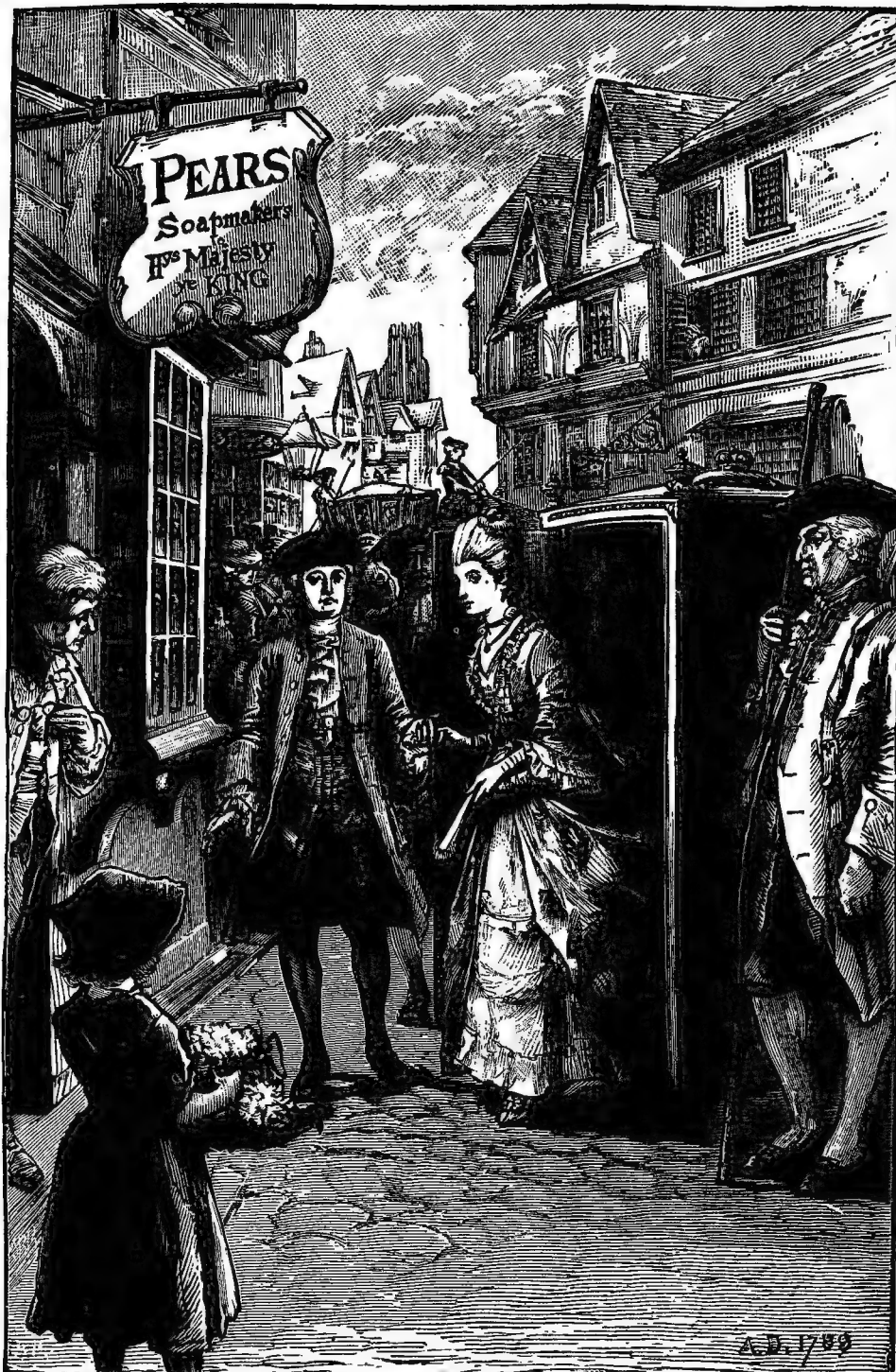
The victims of the recent disasters died not so much from burning as from suffocation, being confined in large masses within close passages and staircases. Persons rushed out on the balconies at the Opéra Comique and at Exeter, and were injured by jumping therefrom, as there was no outside staircase at either building. The balcony at Exeter must have been a comparatively safe place, for a large sunflower which grew there, continued to flourish after the fire, and was quite uninjured.

T. W. S.

THE GOUPIL GALLERY

A SMALL but very varied collection of oil pictures, including examples of most of the Continental schools, is now open to view at 117, New Bond Street. Some of the best are by deceased painters, and of the rest very few are of recent date. At the end of the Gallery hangs a large and impressive landscape, by Corot, entitled "The Storm," in which the appearance of movement in the sky, the sea, and the foreground trees is rendered with surprising force. Near it is a quaint and pleasant picture of a little Normandy peasant girl "Going to School," by Bastien Lepage, remarkable, among other good qualities, for the distinct individuality and fine modelling of the face. By Ch. Daubigny there is a large, low-toned landscape, spacious in effect, and broadly painted; and by the iconoclast Courbet, a carefully-studied picture of a rocky ravine, with fine quality of colour.

The best work by a living French artist in the collection is M. Gérôme's scene in an Oriental harem, called "Awakening." The finely-formed and gracefully-posed figure is drawn and modelled with masterly skill, and all the subordinate features of the scene—the tiled wall, the brazen furniture, and rich draperies—are in perfect keeping, and painted with the most elaborate completeness. There is nothing Oriental about the half-length of a fair, red-haired girl in fantastic costume that M. Carolus Duran calls "Salomé," but the head is life-like, and the handling firm and facile. Professor Müller's "Court in the Grand-Ducal Palace," with many animated and well-grouped figures in sixteenth-century costume; and the large picture of girls at work in the "Orphelinat de Katwyk," by the Dutch painter, A. Artz, would claim more notice if they were now shown in London for the first time. Josef Israels is well represented by a picturesque cottage interior, with a little girl reading the Bible to her bed-ridden grandmother—the best of several pictures that he has painted of the same subject. A pleasant air of repose pervades a scene of domestic life, "Peaceful Industry," by the German painter, F. Uhde.



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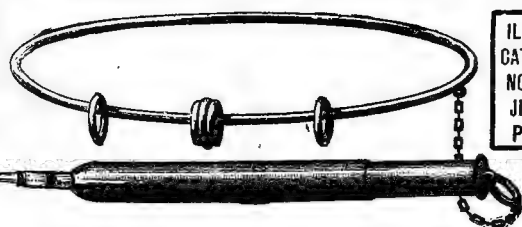
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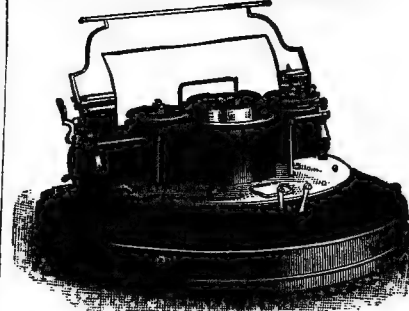
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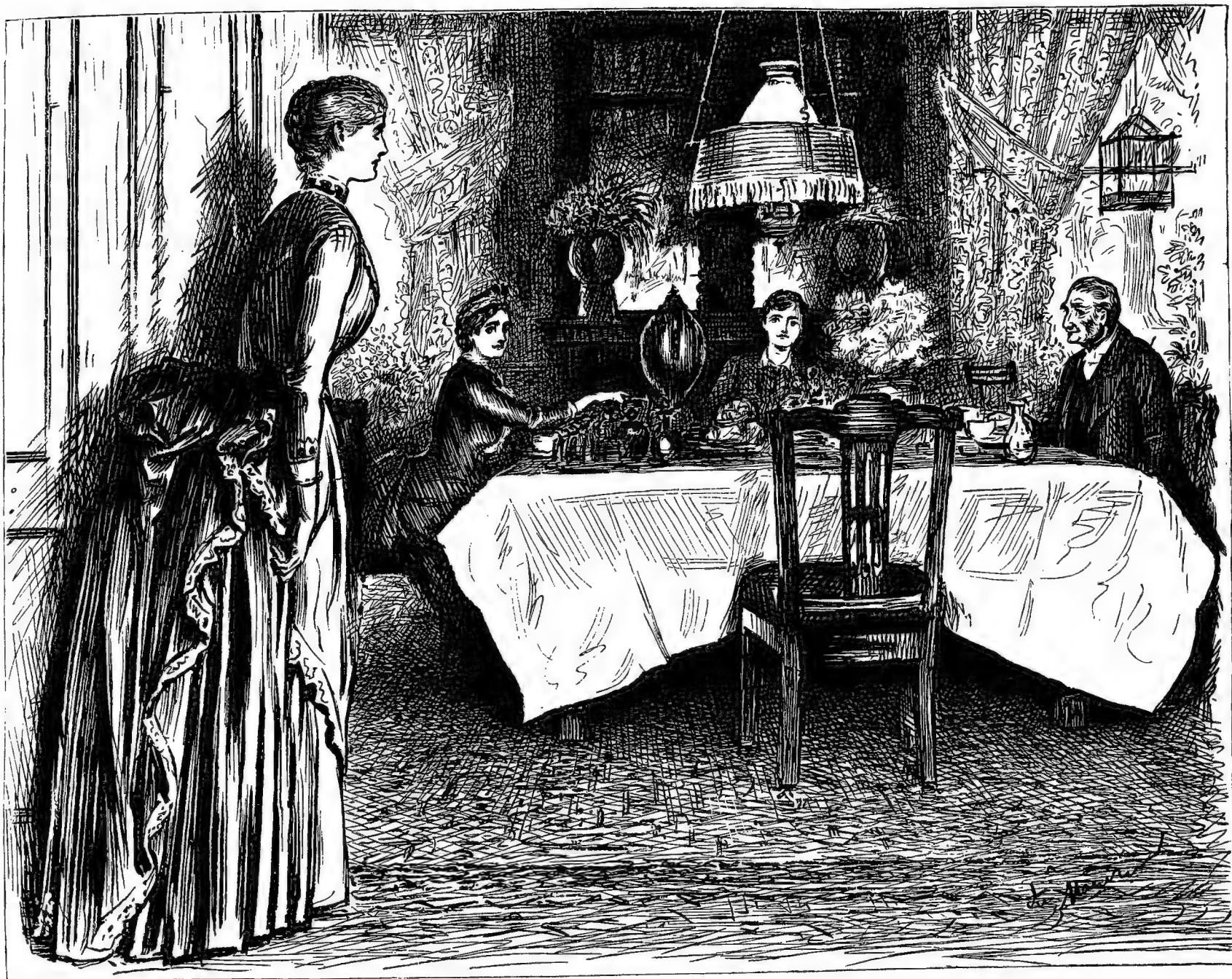
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THE MYSTERY OF MIRBRIDGE

By JAMES PAYN,

AUTHOR OF "BY PROXY," "UNDER ONE ROOF," &C., &C.

CHAPTER I.

THE RECTORY

SPRINGTIME in England—whatever may be said to its discredit—is, after all, our best time. It may set in with its usual severity, but, like the parrot when it nips its mistress, its bite has a something caressing in it. Even the people that go abroad to avoid "that hateful east wind" of ours pine to be at home again when the bullfinch begins his song. "Oh, life in England now that April's there," sings the poet in Italy as he sees in imagination, as Wordsworth saw, the daffodils, "the buttercups, the little children's dower," and compares them to its disadvantage with the "gaudy melon flower." What the maiden dying of consumption, and the old man dying of old age, alike desire to see once more before they go, is, above all other sights, the springtime, as it comes too slowly up their way. The spectacle of Nature renewing her youth and strength and beauty is grateful to every one, whether they recognise what it is that charms them or no.

The Reverend Percival Thorne, walking in his Rectory garden this April morning before breakfast, recognises it well enough. His lot has long been cast in a manufacturing town, where the changes of the seasons were marked chiefly by the use or disuse of fires in the grates, or by the difference of the viands on the table, and he vastly prefers his country rectory to Stoketon.

"I seem to breathe freely for the first time these ten years," he observed to his wife on his first arrival at Mirbridge, and he is sniffing the fresh odours that arise from the fields and streams around him now as though he could never inhale enough of them. His present lines, in comparison with his old ones, have certainly fallen in a pleasant place.

The Rectory is a house of considerable size, standing on a knoll, with a well-wooded hill behind it, that shields it from north and east; around it runs a verandah, from which, in summer time, so charming a view is afforded, that it often tempts certain of its in-dwellers to remain at home, and take the loveliness of neighbouring but more distant landscapes upon trust, from hearsay, rather than stir from their chairs.

The garden is large and very picturesque, being interspersed with huge lichen-covered boulders (which have rolled down years ago from the hill behind) and ancient trees, whose still leafless boughs are moss-covered like the antlers of a stag. It is skirted by an unseen high road, sunk between deep banks, on the other side of which is a meadow, intersected by the Mir, at present a bright, sparkling stream, full of high spirits indeed, yet respectful of its banks, but which, a month earlier, when the snow from the hills

begins to melt, is given to spread itself to right and left, till it looks more like a lake than a river. To the west the valley narrows; the stream is there pent up between two walls of rock, and never ceases, even in the driest weather, to make complaint of its imprisonment; beyond this gorge rises a range of hills, almost large enough to be called mountains, green, save when capped by snow, to their very summits; on the south the landscape is shut in by low-lying woods which, even in summer-time, do not reach the spire of the village church, nor the scarcely less aspiring turrets of the mansion of the Squire. As fine a home-view as even in England, so rich in similar scenes that to the very alien who looks upon them it seems almost home, was ever beheld from Rectory garden.

On his favourite walk, between the apple-tree and the box wood hedge, the Rector paces up and down, a man of sixty or more, but upright as a dart, and bright-eyed as a star. It is not always thus with him; for the reverend gentleman, in common with most of his clerical brethren in these times, has cause enough for depression; but the pure air and bright sunshine have for the moment driven sombre thoughts away. Moreover, truth to say, he has another reason for his unwonted light-heartedness, in a certain day dream in which he has been indulging—not for the first time.

It is broken by a clapping of hands from the verandah, and a musical cry of "Pa—pa, Pa—pa," which awakes the echoes like the notes of a key bugle; the very hills, though in gentlest tones, seem to be calling for him.

"If it could only be," he murmurs to himself, with a half sigh; "yet, why should it not be?" and he leisurely obeys the summons.

In the verandah which frames her charming little figure, as though it were a picture, stands the Rector's second daughter, Lucy; her cheeks, which have naturally a bright, though delicate colour, are pale; her dark brown hair is short as that of a boy, for it is only a few weeks since it began to grow, after a dangerous illness, in which the whole silken harvest of it had to be sheared away. She is quite convalescent now, and her sweet looks are rather improved than otherwise, or so it appears to her fond parent, by the ordeal which she has gone through. She is one of those girls whose charms satisfy us so completely, that we think they can never change for the better, yet on whom every change seems to confer new beauties; not that Lucy Thorne is really beautiful in an artistic sense, but only winsome and attractive in the highest degree. Six months ago the Rector could not have conceived to himself how he could have loved a daughter more, but at that time she had been almost lost to him, and by God's mercy had been given back to his arms, at the very

edge of the grave. It is the first time since last autumn that she has "bugled" to him, as she calls it, a music he had never thought to hear again, and at the sound of it the selfish tears start to his eyes, because his darling is with him still, and exposed to all earthly snares and woes, and not a saint in Heaven. It is the case with even the best of us: though we know that if our dear ones die they

In a city glorious,
A great and distant city,
Have sought a mansion incorruptible,
Would they could have stayed with us!

is still our cry.

"This is very shocking," cries the fairy figure, shaking a reproving finger at her parent, as he toils up the sloping sward to the verandah. "To be late on the first morning that his daughter has come down to breakfast."

"You very wicked and abominable girl," returns the Rector, whose humour it is to load with the most severe reproaches the child who in his eyes is faultless, and whom he is secretly conscious of having done his best to spoil, "how dare you say so? Why, your mother and I have been waiting for you, and for Clara," he adds with precipitancy (like one who has been nearly forgetting himself, or rather somebody else), "these three-quarters of an hour—'Where on earth, my dear,' this to his wife, who is sitting at the breakfast table, superintending the tea urn—'did this very shameless and disrespectful young person acquire her habit of mendacity?'"

"You had better both come in and shut the window," returns the lady of the house, without condescending to take the least notice of this grave question of morals. "It is very unwise of you, Percy, to go out so early without an overcoat; and if I had not insisted upon the precaution, would you believe it, that girl of yours, only just recovering from her illness, would have gone out without a shawl, to call you in."

"Don't call her my girl," said the Rector, looking at the delinquent as if she was some toothsome dainty, which he would prefer to anything on the well-spread table in the way of eating, and shaking his handsome head with a great show of indignation; "she is an unworthy minx, and the plague of our lives—Cut me some ham, you witch—fat and very thin, as your poor father loves it—though I dare say you have forgotten all about his likes and dislikes. There is certainly nothing like the atmosphere of a sick room for increasing natural selfishness."

"I wish you'd eat your toast while it's hot, my dear," observed Mrs. Thorne, drily. She did not disapprove of her husband's affectionate badinage of Lucy, and much less was she jealous of it,

A discreet silence followed her last observation, till it was broken by the sharp and cheery sound of the post-horn. There was but one blast of it, for Saunders had no breath to spare for what he

Q But is she a French woman, is she?

* In my opinion, her being French will be a distinct advantage.

her mistakes will be the more readily forgiven her; and people will not be able to say that she is 'connected with trade,' which, if she were an Englishwoman, they would be sure to do. She may be a Montmorency for all they know, or will probably be able to discover. As for ourselves, it is our bounden duty to help her all we can, if only for the sake of the parish."

"I suppose so," admitted Clara. "It is but fair, at all events, that she should have her chance."

It was a very characteristic speech, and Mrs. Thorne was much too wise to gainsay it. The slender patronage, however, that was thus obviously to be afforded by her elder daughter to the Lady of the Manor troubled her not a little. In the store-room she took the opportunity to say a few words upon the same subject to Lucy.

"Your sister, I am afraid, is rather inclined to be prejudiced against Lady Trevor," she said; "and I think I noticed in what you said yourself, my dear, a similar feeling."

"It was only because I was disappointed at her forbidding the reception at the Hall," explained Lucy, laughing. "Of course, it was all in fun; and I did not like the notion of my mother calling on anybody and not being welcomed."

Mrs. Thorne patted her daughter's cheek caressingly.

"I was sure you meant no harm, my darling, at all events. What I want to impress upon you is that Lady Trevor, being a foreigner—or what is equivalent to it, knowing nothing of our English ways—will have a difficult task here in getting on with people; and that we must all do our best to help her."

"I am afraid that I can be of very small service to her, dear mamma, but whatever I can do, I will do."

"And if she is a little nervous, as Sir Richard calls it, and shrinks from us, whether from shyness or pride, you will not stand on your dignity—nor mine—but still do your best to smooth her way for her?"

"I will indeed, mamma; you may rely on me."

(To be continued)



"CA IRA; OR, DANTON IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION" (Lee and Shepherd, Boston; Dillingham, New York), is a book, and not a certain number of pages stitched between cloth covers. Mr. L. Gronlund's "Co-Operative Commonwealth" is so well-known in America, that it ought to be better known here. When Co-Operative Stores in small towns are able to give back 20 per cent. to purchasers, besides paying their shareholders a good interest, it is clear that the gospel of which Mr. Gronlund is one of the prophets is really a message of good news. The French Revolution he regards as preparatory to a society of which co-operation will be the mainspring. That is to be the fifth act of the revolutionary drama, which (as Mr. J. Morley says) "is still dark to us;" and, whether or not we agree with Mr. Gronlund, we must admit that to hold some "hypothesis of the future" is more rational than to look, as even such a philosophical historian as Quinet does, on the Revolution as "a comet which suddenly entered, and as suddenly left, the path of history, and which might have procured for the French such blessings as American Independence did for the people of the States." The results hitherto have certainly been most inadequate; it set the bourgeoisie free to inaugurate the reign of jobbery and swindling; by Bonaparte's help it managed to pay off the *sans culotte* armies with the plunder of neighbouring lands, and with the Ribbon of the Legion of Honour, instead of with the communal lands. Instead of diminishing taxation, they have even kept up the *octroi*, which falling directly on town artisans helps to account for their rabid hatred of the plutocrats, and they have opposed all attempts to introduce our Socialistic institution the Poor Law. Mr. Gronlund calls on all to give their minds to this subject; for "in proportion as the mental preparation is complete will the coming Revolution be easy." Danton he looks on as the good genius of the Jacobins. The same view is taken (as many will remember) in the Erckmann-Chatrin novels. He had to meet a counter-revolution; the excuse for the September massacres is that, with Longwy taken, and Verdun on the eve of surrender, the Parisians refused to march "unless their wives and children were safe from the conspirators inside the city." The Girondin Condorcet, when a proscribed wanderer, wrote in the highest terms of Danton; and that he was wholly innocent of these massacres Mr. Gronlund proves conclusively. Danton was by no means faultless; but he was not a Marat. His fault was that he was not quite strong enough for the place.

M. Selim Faris, ex-editor of the well-known Arabic paper *El Fawakir*, thinks that "The Decline of British Prestige in the East" (Fisher Unwin) is a real fact, and not a mere alarmist cry. We are rightly punished, he thinks, for our blind, selfish domineering in Egypt; and it is hopeless for us to arrive at a good understanding with the Sultan unless the Egyptian Question is settled. Egypt, he says, is in the hands of Armenians, and is being ruined by a prolonged occupation in the interest of the bondholders. Visitors are hoodwinked with imaginary reforms, while the wretched condition of the people is sedulously concealed from them. Why, asks Selim Faris, did we, after declaring in Convention that Turkey's territory is to be intact, allow Italy to grasp the vast regions round Massowah? Of course he plays on our fear of Russia; but he also warns us that Germany has taken our place in Zanzibar and on all the Red Sea coast. A book of this kind is useful to rouse us from a self-satisfied contemplation of our own perfections.

Some people, not wholly strangers to the musical world, will say: Schumann I know, and Chopin I know, of even Wagner I know something, but who is "Johannes Brahms" (Fisher Unwin)? All the more reason they should read Miss Newmarch's translation of Dr. Deiters's biography. Mr. Fuller Maitland, in his introduction, claims that Brahms is by far the greatest composer of our day, "ranking among those supreme masters of the craft of music who have never been wanting since Palestrina's day, and long before. . . . Wagner, on the other hand, is unrivalled in the art, or rather in the combination of arts;" and therefore there is no possible standard by which the two can be compared. Dr. Deiters takes the same view. His elaborate criticism of Brahms' work cannot fail to be interesting to those who really want to understand one whom the whole Fatherland unites in honouring.

The number of religious houses that were in old London is astonishing. "Monastic London" (Remington) gives us some account of all of them. Unhappily purchasers like Thomas Sutton, citizen and girdler, who refounded the Charterhouse, endowing it with fifteen manors, were very rare. Even Westminster Abbey was only preserved from the rapacity of Somerset by a bribe of twenty-four manors. Mr. Stanhope prefaces his digest with a general survey of monasticism, its founders, and the way in which the system worked.

The late Dr. Norman Macleod was chiefly remarkable for a breadth of view rarer among Scotch divines when he began his ministry than it is at present. For this change he and Principal Tulloch are mainly answerable; and his sneer at the ultra-Calvinist, "who won't enjoy life, nor laugh without atoning for the sin by a groan; who prefers rather to think how many are damned than how many are saved" (p. 153), would have been impossible thirty years ago in one who had been trained on the Westminster

Catechism. Doubtless Dr. Macleod had met some of these people; we are quite sure he has not met many Franciscans or Dominicans, or he would not talk of them as "having the same scowling, dark, unloving soul as the Calvinistic fanatic." But even the broadest theologians are seldom without a touch of unfairness; they must set up a dummy on whom to practise their spiritual pugilism. "Love the Fulfilling of the Law" (Burnet) Miss Macleod tells us is partly MS. notes for sermons, &c. The latter part of the book—travel notes, &c.—will be more interesting to most readers. We wish the compiler had told us where the pretty paper, "Home School," first appeared.

In her charming account of Tauler, Nicholas of Basle, and Henry Suso, "Three Friends of God" (Nisbet), Miss F. Beavan has gone to the latest authorities, Dr. Carl Schmidt and Dr. Keller, whose "Reformation and the Older Reforming Parties" was only published two years ago. The history of the "Brethren" (Bons Hommes, or Waldenses), whom she identifies with our Lollards, and of whom the cruelly-persecuted Paterini, concerning whom Walter Mapes has a characteristic sneer and a slanderous accusation, were the forerunners, has yet to be written in English. Meanwhile we gratefully accept this valuable contribution to an important subject.

Mr. Lund may well have been struck with the absurd way in which most English visitors "do" "Como and the Italian Lake-Land" (Allen), going away as ignorant as if they were inmates of his Liverpool blind school. What does the average tourist care about the mollusca of the district, or even about its history and antiquities? What knows he of the Princess Christina Trivulzio, or of the granite grooves of unknown age hewn in the hillsides of Como (*avelli*, p. 152)? By most of these birds of hasty passage the tomb of Gaston de Foix is as little considered as that of Meinulphus; while even the Certosa of Pavia is passed by unheeded. Mr. Lund, far too modest when he disclaims anything like thoroughness, will shame them, if any one can, into making use of their privileges; while his almost exhaustive work supplies a real need for those who hunger after something better than the mere guide-book.

Of Mr. F. R. Cheshire's "Bees and Bee-keeping, Scientific and Practical" (Upcott Gill), we noticed some time ago the first (the Scientific) volume. Vol. II. is wholly practical, showing how bees may be brought under proper control, either by terrifying them into submission, or by gaining their confidence; describing the best hives, the artificial aids to comb-building, artificial swarming, wintering, &c. It closes with an account of the different races. Our native bee excels, we are told, as a comb-builder, and caps its honey with snowy wax, beside which the work of the yellow races seems inartistic and botchy. The Ligurian bee is the best of the herd; the Cyprian the most fertile. Is it true that bees are not indigenous in America? Bates ("Amazons") distinctly speaks of a breed which has not yet learned to economise space and material by making its cells octagonal.

The 50th offered last year by the London Chamber of Commerce for the best plan for Imperial Federation was awarded by Mr. Froude, Sir Peter Rawson, and Professor Seeley to Professor Greswell, late of the Cape University. Five other essays were selected for publication, of which three were by Colonials. Four of these are printed along with Professor Greswell's in "England and Her Colonies" (Sonnenschein); Canon Walton, of Windsor, one of the five, intends to enlarge his essay and to publish it separately. The question involves more than those who glibly talk of Federation imagine. First as to ways and means: the Royal Family would have to be maintained partly by the British and partly by the Imperial Parliament. Then, as to policy, the Colonies differ in their views on Free-trade, on the way in which they look on Foreign Powers—New South Wales and Victoria, for instance, feeling difficulty about the New Hebrides question. The general feeling seems to be that the Colonist must have the same voice as the Old Countryman in managing Imperial affairs; and that the managing body must be a sort of extended Privy Council, that "King's Continual Council" having, of old, exercised enormous powers.

Everybody, from Defoe ("Cloud of Witnesses") and Woodrow, down to Lord Macaulay, has described "Claverhouse" (Longmans) as the embodiment of cynical cruelty. Hardly does Scott, in "Old Mortality," venture on traversing the popular verdict. Mr. Mowbray Morris, however, to whom Mr. A. Lang confided this number of the "English Worthies Series," is more courageous. He proves that a number of the stories are exaggerated, several of them more than doubtful, some wholly mythical, and his conclusion is that Claverhouse was "no capricious and unlicensed oppressor of a God-fearing and inoffensive peasantry, but a soldier waging war against an armed and turbulent population." The same might be said of the commanders in Louis XIV.'s Dragoonades; and, despite Mr. Morris's special pleading, it is probable that the popular verdict is right in both these cases, and also in the case of Cromwell in Ireland, and of Judge Jefferies in Somerset. The book, however, is very pleasant reading, and throughout shows careful research.

Mr. Oliver Burke's "South Isles of Arran" (Kegan Paul) is enough to make every one wish to pack up his trunk and set out for a land where the chough is not extinct; where the mutton (bred on the same kind of rock terraces) is as good as that of the barony of Burren; where is Dun Ægus, the finest "cliff castle" in Europe, compared with which those of West Cornwall are mere children's playthings; and where the people nurse sick visitors with a kindness seldom shown on the mainland. Moreover, these islanders, who still wear brogues of raw hide and cross the sea in currages, have just got 40 per cent. reduction, for which their absentee landlord is trying to recoup himself by charging them 3^d. a load for seaweed. No landlord has ever made a tank (there are often long droughts) or planted a single *Pinus maritima* to stay the growing sands; but, thanks to a quarrel as to ownership between the O'Briens and the O'Flahertys, Queen Elizabeth stepped in in 1586 as "lawful owner," and handed them over to an Englishman.

The late Professor Richey's "Short History of the Irish People" (Dublin: Hodges and Figgis; London: Longmans) gives us a great idea of the receptive power of the Dublin Alexandra College girls, to whom the greater part of it was read in the form of lectures. It is one of the best books of its kind, for the author is nervously anxious to be fair, "never citing against the Celtic population the statements contained in State papers, or citing against the English the unsupported allegations of Irish writers." Irish history, properly treated, is of all histories the most instructive, because the record of failures discloses the radical errors of systems. "It has been—like Spanish history for the past three hundred years—the elaboration of all those ideas of law and political economy according to which a nation should not be governed." Those who follow Professor Richey through his temperate and suggestive chapters on the Race and Social Organisation of the Early Irish, on the Early Irish Church, and on the successive phases of English Invasion, will regret that his book ends with the Plantation of Ulster. Hugh O'Neill, whom he believes to have been grandson to the Dundalk blacksmith, and therefore no Celt at all, is the hero of his closing chapters. "Had he been fairly dealt with, instead of being harassed and insulted past bearing by English Bishops and garrisons, and treacherously forced into flight by 'The Castle' of that day, there would have been no need of a 'Plantation.' And, instead of a Scotch and English 'Ulster,' which was the direct cause of the Rebellion of 1641, and of most of the hatred and suspicion, and uncertainty of title, &c., which still paralyse the country, we might have an Ulster as thriving and cultivated, but inhabited by the descendants of its original possessors." That will be to many a new

view of the Plantation of Ulster; but, from the dispassionate historian's point of view, it is undoubtedly the correct one.



READERS of "The New Antigone," by an anonymous author (3 vols.: Macmillan and Co.), will have their passage through a heavy, though able, work somewhat lightened if they can take an interest in endeavouring to answer certain enigmas suggested by it. For example, one is kept on tenter-hooks to discover what the new has to do with the old Antigone: and the puzzle is never solved—not even the title-page motto from Sophocles gives the clue. No doubt Antigone suffered many things, and so did our author's Hippolyta; but then there is a river in Monmouth and a river in Macedon. Again, what is the drift of the novel? It appears to have one; but it also appears as if the author had invented the fallacies he combats so strenuously, and were struggling manfully with phantoms of his own creation. His heroine is not easy to understand, except on a supposition of her being a mere slave of any sudden impulse—a supposition which we are clearly not intended to hold. A single sermon or religious service has often enough awakened consciences and effected conversions, but not without some previous knowledge of the existence of religion. Hippolyta is a young woman of exceptional intellect and education, holding exceedingly advanced views on the relations of the sexes and other social matters; so that she was a very unpromising case indeed for instantaneous conversion. Altogether, the novel displays extraordinary waste of power, but the power, though wasted, is none the less there. The author has thought and read much more than is usual before writing a novel; and the next point for the occupation of his thoughts is the novelist's art of selection and construction. The construction of "The New Antigone" is curiously crude.

"Cast on the Waters," by Hugh Coleman Davidson (3 vols.: Hurst and Blackett), is a very slight story indeed, based upon some exceedingly improbable coincidences. Everything seems to run double; each of two successive owners of the same property dies suddenly just when on the point of making a will, in each case a supposititious daughter being the sufferer; but, as the two girls turn out to be sisters, and, unknown to anybody, the next of kin to the last deceased, no harm is done. The very considerable merit of the novel consists in its comedy—that is to say, in its portraiture, something in the manner of Dickens, of a strange old scapegrace of a wooden-legged schoolmaster named Whiffin, and of his wife, who is no less an oddity in her way. These run, no doubt, into caricature; but it is of a very legitimately amusing kind. "Cast on the Waters" is by no means the kind of work we should have looked for from the author of "The Green Hills by the Sea," though that also contained a vein of humour. This vein has broadened in the present novel out of recognition, and its development is welcome. A little strong comedy is urgently needed to leaven current fiction; and its presence would have atoned for an even less ingenious story.

Mrs. Edward Kennard is distinguished among lady novelists as placing fox-hunting first, and man-hunting only second. Her heroines—who have, nevertheless, excellent points—would resemble the Squire in "Locksley Hall," in holding their lovers only a very little dearer than their horses, if so dear. In "A Real Good Thing" (3 vols.: F. V. White and Co.) she, as usual, writes a sporting novel rather better than an average man, in the matter of plot—not that this is saying much—and very much better than the literature of the hunting-field in the matter of style, although there are uncomfortable signs of corruption about the latter. We are sorry to find that Mrs. Kennard's hard-riding heroines are beginning to "negotiate" a fence, instead of taking or clearing it, and that her hounds are developing into "beauties." She is getting slangy also, which she used not to be, but she spares us, as yet, the quotations from the Eton syntax and prosody, without which the male sporting novelist can scarcely get along. She is always good at a heroine with no nonsense about her, and in Kitten Morrison she is as good as ever. Her men are not quite so successful, but they serve to take their place in spirited runs, whether they are after the fox or whether they themselves are the quarry—whether pursuers or pursued. There are exceptionally few signs of carelessness about this slight and lively story; the only two noticeable being that a courtesy-title—Lord Verindra—is borne throughout by the son of a Marquis by courtesy, and that a man born when his mother was twenty is only thirty when she dies at sixty-one.

A very mild and crude performance indeed is another sporting novel, "In the Shires," by Sir Randal H. Roberts, Bart. (1 vol.: F. V. White and Co.). It has all the usual incidents belonging to the conventional stories of its class, including the troubles of the half-greenhorn, half-knave, who tries to recover his losses by forgery. The hero is a sort of giant, known as the "Galloping Squire," who for a long time is breaking his heart for a woman whom he cannot ask to be his wife because he had promised his dying father to keep a very charming and amiable sister at home. It will be seen, therefore, that the Galloping Squire is a very muddle-headed person, seeing that there would not have been the slightest difficulty on the part of anybody. And we cannot fairly say that the plot of "In the Shires" is in the least degree more puerile than the manner in which it is presented.

"The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," by Fergus W. Hume (Hansom Cab Publishing Company), is advertised as having had 25,000 copies sold at Melbourne in three days, and as the work of one who is a master of the art of fiction at the age of twenty-two. As the production of a very young writer it is not unpromising; and Melbourne is to be congratulated on still possessing so simple a taste as to be "wildly—almost madly (*vide* advertisement) stretching out its hands" for a very ordinary piece of shilling fiction. Evidently Mr. Hume is a prophet in his own country.



MESSRS. ENOCH AND SONS.—Very charming and pathetic is "Tears," written and composed by G. Clifton Bingham and Frederick H. Cowen. It is published in three keys.—By the same *collaborateurs* is a merry song which will serve well as an encore to the above. It is entitled "The Kissing Gate."—Two very good songs, music by Paul Rodney, are respectively "Sion," a sacred song replete with true pathos, words by G. Clifton Bingham, and "The Soldier's Dream," the touching words of which are by Henry Vaughan.—There is much to commend in "Stars of Earth," for which Michael Watson has supplied the words and set them to a celebrated cavatina by T. Raff. There is a very effective obligato accompaniment for the violin and cello.—A meet companion for "The Vagabond," to which it bears a marked resemblance, is "The Mountebank," written and composed by Michael Watson; it is arranged for a baritone or bass, and will be a sure favourite at a Christmas gathering.—A refined and taking song is "The Golden Anchor," words by John Muir, music by Milton Wellings; it is published in three keys.—Of the same pathetic type as the above is



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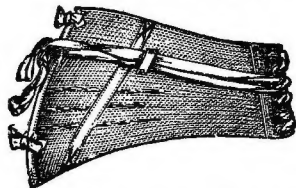
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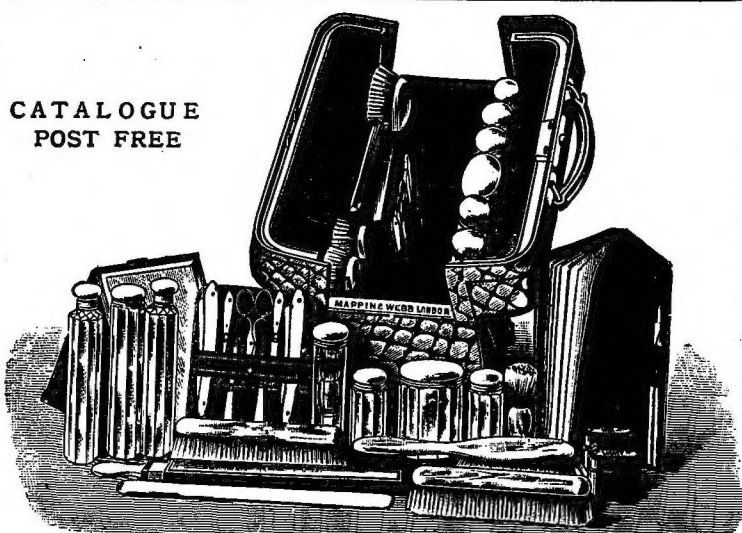
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